

Blue Sisters by Coco Mellors



Summary

The three Blue sisters are exceptional—and exceptionally different. Avery, the eldest and a recovering heroin addict turned strait-laced lawyer, lives with her wife in London; Bonnie, a former boxer, works as a bouncer in Los Angeles following a devastating defeat; and Lucky, the youngest, models in Paris while trying to outrun her hard-partying ways. They also had a fourth sister, Nicky, whose unexpected death left the family reeling. A year later, as they each navigate grief, addiction, and ambition, they find they must return to New York to stop the sale of the apartment they were raised in.

But coming home is never as easy as it seems. As the sisters reckon with the disappointments of their childhood and the loss of the only person who held them together, they realize that the greatest secrets they've been keeping might not have been from one another but from themselves.

Imbued with Coco Mellors's signature combination of humor and heart, *Blue Sisters* is a story of what it takes to keep living after loss—and, ultimately, to fall in love with life again.

Courtesy of Random House Publishing Group

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About the Author

Coco Mellors is the New York Times best-selling author of *Cleopatra and Frankenstein* and *Blue Sisters*. She grew up in London and moved to New York as a teenager, where she received her MFA in fiction from New York University.

Her debut novel *Cleopatra and Frankenstein* is currently being adapted for television by Warner Bros. Both her novels have been translated into over twenty languages so far.

Her writing has also appeared in *Vogue*, *The Cut* and the New York Times's *Modern Love* column.

She lives with her husband and son in New York, where she is currently working on her third novel.

Courtesy of the author's website <https://www.cocomellors.com/>

Discussion Questions

1. When the novel opens, the Blue sisters are all living different lives in disparate cities. How does the loss of Nicky impact each of the sisters differently?
2. Discuss the line: "A sister is not a friend." What do you think the author means by that? Do you have siblings? If so, would you consider your sibling a friend?
3. Discuss the role of addiction in the book. How does it shape the sisters' choices and actions? Have you ever struggled with addiction or been close to someone who has?
4. How does the author depict grief and the process of healing in the story? Which sister's journey resonated with you the most?
5. What do you think the New York City apartment meant to each sister? What do you think it symbolized for Nicky?
6. Each Blue sister has her own romantic encounters and frustrations. Whose romantic storyline did you find the most frustrating, and which did you find the most satisfying?
7. When the sisters reunite, they realize that they had very different understandings of Nicky. What were you the most surprised to learn about Nicky and why?
8. The Blue sisters have a complicated relationship with their parents, and their mother plays a small but pivotal role in the novel. How do the sisters' parental relationships affect their own feelings about motherhood?
9. Discuss the ending of the book. Were you satisfied with how the sisters' stories were resolved? What were you hoping for each sister?
10. Which sister did you identify with the most? Explain why.

Courtesy of Reading Group Guides

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Professional Reviews

Publishers Weekly (07/15/2024):

Mellors (Cleopatra and Frankenstein) delves into sibling drama with this frank and soulful offering. The four Blue sisters form a tight bond while sharing a bedroom in the family's New York City apartment and dealing with their domineering, alcoholic father and aloof mother. They remain close after leaving home, until Nicky, the second youngest, dies at 27. On the first anniversary of Nicky's death, the surviving sisters learn their parents are selling their childhood home, and reunite at the apartment. Avery, the oldest at 33 and a successful lawyer in London, has taken to hiding her smoking and shoplifting habits from her wife. Thirty-one-year-old Bonnie, a retired boxer, works as a bouncer in Venice Beach, Calif., while former model Lucky, 26, can barely through the day without drinking. As the siblings dredge up old wounds and regrets about Nicky, a kindhearted teacher who lived with all-consuming pain from endometriosis, they're brought together by their enduring love for one another, even as they judge each other for how their lives have spiraled. Mellors draws each of the characters distinctly, including Nicky, who comes to life via the others' memories. This story of addiction and grief will resonate with readers. Agents: Mollie Glick and Emily Westcott, CAA. (Sept.)

Library Journal (09/01/2024):

A year ago, 27-year-old Nicky Blue died unexpectedly in her family's New York City apartment. While their perennially absent parents retreat upstate, the remaining Blue sisters attempt to heal, far from each other and from New York. Oldest sister Avery is a London-based lawyer and recovering heroin addict who allows herself one cigarette a day and shoplifts high-end items for a thrill, keeping the indiscretions from her wife. Following a body- and soul-crushing defeat, middle sister Bonnie, a professional boxer, flees the ring to work as a bouncer for a Los Angeles dive bar. Baby sister Lucky is an international fashion model who lives in Paris, alone but for the company of drinks and drugs. The sisters reunite in Manhattan after learning that their parents plan to sell the apartment and begin to navigate their grief, addictions, and dreams together. Mellors (Cleopatra and Frankenstein) thoughtfully uses the expanse of her second novel to fully develop the characters, including those who are secondary. Readers will root for the Blue sisters as individuals and as a family. VERDICT A stunning sibling story for fans of Emma Straub and Lily King.—Alicia Rogers