



## A Slight Change of Plan

*Dee Ernst*

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Kate Everett is about to begin her “second act.” She’s been a widow for eight years and thinks it might be time to start looking for someone to share her life with again. She quits her high-pressure job for something that will allow her more leisure time. She gets rid of the huge family home and moves into a fabulous condo that’s smaller and easier to manage. She’s pretty much got the rest of her life figured out. All she has to do is sit back, relax, and let the pieces fall into place.

But her real life never gets the memo. First, her son moves back in with her—along with his girlfriend. Her dream job falls through, leaving her unemployed. Her mother, whom she hadn’t spoken to in years, can no longer live alone and has to move into her basement. And her only daughter is planning the smallest and simplest wedding in the history of all weddings, much to Kate’s dismay.

Kate thinks that she and Jake, her former college love who has reemerged on an online dating site, of all places, can build something real, and that maybe her happy ending is in front of her at last. But the arrival of Edward, her daughter’s future father-in-law, presents Kate with an unexpected choice.

It looks like real happiness may require a slight change of plan.

## A Slight Change of Plan Details

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## From Reader Review A Slight Change of Plan for online ebook

### Amy says

4.5 rounded down because the heroine's sexytimes were "onscreen" for every guy **but** the one she ended up with.

This book explored the "what if"s of a second chance with *the one who got away* and I walked away with a whole new perspective on love and regrets - so thank you, Dee Ernst.

Kate's a 55yo widow with three adult children. Eight years after the death of her unfaithful husband, she's finally ready to date again. Her son's girlfriend introduces her to online dating. Hilarity and the reality of dating after a long, long hiatus ensues.

I loved Kate's life. She had such a lovely, tight knit group of confidantes and family. Her strained relationship with her mother hurt to read about but it made the ending that much more fulfilling. She tentatively dips her toes into the dating pool and learns that sometimes what you thought you wanted actually wasn't what you needed at all.

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### Musing says

From page one of this delicious contemporary romance, *A Slight Change of Plan*, I had a smile on my face. Such is the clever, witty and delightful prose of *Dee Ernst*.

Kate Everett has decided it's time to move on to 'the next phase' of her life. Time to explore the possibility of new love, downsize her home, attempt to downsize her responsibilities. However, nothing is ever as simple as it appears. Her estranged mother causes grief, an old flame tempts her to resurrect their steamy college relationship and a handsome, debonair Englishman invites unknown pleasures. In the midst of this, her independent adult children navigate new lives causing ripples of their own. Was life ever uncomplicated? Will it ever be?

Ernst's characters are always real and endearing. Throughout the engaging story, the witty repartee between characters will cause many laugh-out-loud moments. Yet, interestingly, despite the fun you will experience when you read fifty-five-year-old Kate's story of life and love, due to the impressive depth and many heartfelt poignant moments, you might also cry a little.

I loved it.

Once again, Dee Ernst has created a gem. The combination of her beautiful storytelling, her quick-witted humor and her believable, lovable characters delivered a quality and highly recommended read. Grab this one. Become a Dee Ernst fan.

Thank you NetGalley and Dee Ernst, for this ARC, in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Elaine says**

Fifty something and independent Kate's life is in for a change when she agrees to try online dating. It doesn't take her long to have a decidedly nonchalant attitude about dating after years of... well, not dating. I wonder whether she was as confused as I was of her feelings about her relationship with Tom. She says she likes him but...

One of her friends has an excruciatingly embarrassing turn of events during an intimate encounter with a new man in her life. That one will be tough to get over. Yikes! It's funny to us but not to her.

The narrator has a wonderful New Jersey accent which is very fitting for the setting.

A bit predictable but oh so lovely. I was sad to see it come to an end and was hoping for a sequel but alas I do not find one.

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### **Sue Jochens says**

I received an advanced reader copy and this is my absolutely honest review for no compensation whatsoever. No spoilers - just a general outline. \*I realize this is on the audio version and will move it to the print version when available.

Dee Ernst has done it again. After the first 100 pages, I actually got out a highlighter to mark favorite favorite lines and conversations. At one point I was laughing so hard I dropped the book and just couldn't stop. (Y'all will know where, when you read about Marco and Cheryl's date.) An honest, true-to-life book about a 55 year old widow, her slightly nutty family, her fabulous friends, and the re-emergence of the love of her life, who dumped her in college. I wish I was part of Kate's circle.

I fell immediately in love with all the characters (well, maybe Tom not so much), and cannot wait for this to be released so my pre-ordered copy on Kindle arrives and I can re-read it, highlighting some of my favorite passages ("My Italian mother belonged to one of the more complicated religious affiliations - Lapsed Catholicism) for all to see. I pulled out her other two books to re-read and comment on, since I rated but didn't leave comments. She is definitely on my pre-order list, books sight unseen.

A definite winner. Get it when it arrives November 19!

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### **Janga says**

Last year I did something I rarely do. I bought Dee Ernst's debut novel, *Better Off Without Him* (2010), an eBook, without having read a single review or having one friend recommend it. I bought it based solely on the description of a romance writer with teenage children going through a divorce with the help of her friends and a sexy plumber, and I consider it one of my smartest book buys of 2012. I loved the book. I laughed so loudly that my family asked me to share the joke. When I saw *A Slight Change of Plan* on NetGalley, I eagerly requested the privilege of reviewing it, another smart decision. *A Slight Change of Plan* is a worthy follow-up to *Better Off Without Him*.

I think anyone with a sense of humor will enjoy this book, but I think it resonates particularly with women old enough to have their own fund of mixed memories, hard-earned experience, and reservoirs of love for all the family and friends and lovers, old and new, who own a piece of their hearts.

Often I found myself pausing to reread a sentence or a page. Sometimes the pause was to extend the moment of laughter, but more often it was to luxuriate in the feeling that I was sharing something special. The novel is written in first person, and so all that the reader knows is filtered through Kate's voice. For some readers that may present a problem, but it is not one for me. I love the intimacy of the first-person point of view. It gave me the feeling that Kate was a person I knew well and liked a great deal and the feeling that Ernst is an author who knows and understands the life I have lived, the lives my friends have lived.

If you like romantic comedy that makes you laugh and smile and think and remember, I highly recommend *A Slight Change of Plan*. If you like it as much as I did, you can still get a digital copy of *Better Off Without Him* at a very reasonable price. And I'm wondering what's next from Dee Ernst.

See full review at:

<http://justjanga.blogspot.com/2013/11...>

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### **Ginny Gallagher says**

*A Slight Change of Plan* is a wonderful story that I really enjoyed reading. The characters are fantastic. They made me laugh out loud, shake my head in annoyance, and want to join them all at Kate's monthly spaghetti dinner.

I adored the main character, Kate. She is strong, matter of fact, and has a certain wisdom about her that only comes from learning from the past. She loves her family and her friends and even though she is scared she is willing to try new things in hopes of creating more happiness in her life. She rolls with the punches and handles them with grace and good sense. I guess what I am trying to say is she has gumption and I hope that I am as smart as she is when I am 55.

Dee Ernst has written a story that falls outside the normal standards for romance and it works beautifully. It is fun, funny, and full of heart. I loved that the characters had a maturity about them but at the same time still had flaws and things to work out in their life and in their character. She shows the complexity and the beauty of relationships, acceptance, and moving on while at the same time delivering a dose of realistic and sometimes cringe worth humor.

Highly recommend to adult readers that appreciate a smart and humorous viewpoint on life and getting older and aren't offended by smoking pot, farts, or hot flashes. :)

\* Giveaway and Original post at <http://ginsbooknotes.com> (Gin's Book Notes) \*

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### **Leona says**

First by this author, but not the last. Very well done. I was a little disappointed in the love triangle and how

everything played out. But it was a minor thing relative to the overall enjoyment of the book. I will definitely read more by this author.

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### **Sandra Nachlinger says**

I almost always enjoy a book that has a Baby Boomer as the main character, and *A SLIGHT CHANGE OF PLAN* stands out as one of the very best. With a voice that's all her own, Dee Ernst tackles the difficulties of caring for aging parents, challenges of young adult children, and unexpected consequences of entering the world of online dating. But this book doesn't just address the challenges of growing older. It's also about friendship, perseverance, and adaptability. Written with humor and warmth, this story will appeal to readers of all ages.

At age 55, Kate Everett has had a successful career as a lawyer, raised three children (now grown), and faced widowhood. As the story opens, she no longer enjoys her solitude as much as she used to, and she wants "...somebody who was happy to see me when I got home who didn't have a separate water bowl." So she takes action to change her life by selling her large family home and moving into a smaller condo, leaving her job, and signing up for an online dating service. But then there's a slight change of plan, which turns out not to be so slight after all.

Author Dee Ernst kept me wondering what was going to happen next. When Kate moves into her condo, her new digs seem perfect for one person, until ....

And the new job she has accepted seems just right for this stage of her life, until ...

Then when she reconnects with an old love on a dating website, things seem to be going well, until....

I won't spoil the surprises by revealing what happens, but I will say that the character handles all the unexpected changes in her life with love, humor, and the help of dear friends.

In addition to enjoying Ms. Ernst's accomplished prose, I was glad to see that the book was free of grammatical and typographical errors, which I always appreciate. I'm sure I'll read *A SLIGHT CHANGE OF PLAN* more than once.

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### **Joyce says**

As a woman "of a certain age" myself, I really identified with this character. It was refreshing to read a romance about a more mature main character.

I was immediately engaged in the story, and it held my interest from beginning to end. Kate Everett, a 55 year-old widow with 3 grown children, decides that it is time to sell the large family home and move into a lower maintenance townhome. She has a teaching job lined up and plans to learn golf in her free time. She even joins an online dating site. However, she no sooner moves into her new home, when her job goes away, her son and his girlfriend move in, and she reconnects with her first love Jake "The One Who Got Away". Then things get really complicated. The story was heartfelt, amusing at times, and really hit home. I felt like I knew the characters, even the secondary characters. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

I received this book in a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

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## **Karla says**

### **3.5 Stars! Fun chick-lit about dating again in your 50's!**

A pleasant, amusing read but a little too "long in the tooth"! Some portions of the story could have been a little less wordy. I did enjoy the overall premise, the humor and could relate to some of the family situations, especially when she talked about caring for her elderly mother. The setting was also familiar to me since I live near the area where the story takes place, that was very enjoyable and made it easy to envision it all in my mind!

Overall, an easy, relatable, witty read that unfortunately dragged a bit! Still, there were plenty of sweet shining moments and laugh out loud dilemmas only someone of this age group could truly understand! I know I did! Time marches on, don't fight it, embrace it the best you can and laugh or you'll just be miserable!

This was my first read by this author and I will be looking for more of her books!

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## **Donna McBroom-Theriot says**

A SLIGHT CHANGE OF PLAN is such a funny book. Everyone should have a best friend like Cheryl! Past 50 years of age and growing pot in the middle of your roses on the patio? to be discovered by your adult children?

A phrase in the book that perfectly describes life (and the book) is "There's an old saying - man plans, God laughs. And let me tell you, he has an interesting sense of humor." Kate has it all planned. She's sold the huge house, purchased a condo, and then God laughed!

Suddenly, she has adult children moving back home, she's beginning to date again, and her ailing mother moves in. Add to that one cooky best friend and the pot starts growing!

A SLIGHT CHANGE OF PLAN is a book about life and what life can throw at you. When Kate comes across her one and only true love, the one who dumped her, on a dating site, she finds that he can still take her breath away, but in the end, is he still the same guy and is the same guy the one she wants to spend the rest of her life with.

Dee Ernst writes a book full of humor and laughter and clearly shows how art imitates life. I have to include a few quotes because they are too good to pass up. I highly recommend the book, especially if you've hit the 50 something time period. You will totally appreciate every page of the book. By the way, I'm giving this book 5 stars. If I were to read books more than once, this would be one of them.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. Read more at:  
[www.mylifeonestoryatatime.com](http://www.mylifeonestoryatatime.com)

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## **Laurel-Rain says**

When Kate Fremont Everett decides to make some changes in her life, she has been a widow for eight years, her children are mostly grown, and definitely out of the house. Oldest son Jeff lives in the West Village with his partner Gabe; daughter Regan is planning her wedding with Phil; and Sam is a perpetual student on his way to his Ph.D. And finally, after all these years, she has left her law practice, planning to teach a few classes at a nearby college. At fifty-five, she believes there is still time for life changes.

One of those changes is to sell the big house in suburban New Jersey that no longer feels comfortable. In her weekly telephone conversations with the kids, she fills them in on some of her plans. Like buying that condo in Castle Crossings. So when her house and the condo are in escrow, soon to close, she is stunned when her youngest son, Sam, who has a new girlfriend named Alisa, calls up to ask if the two of them can move into the big old house with her.

Don't any of her kids listen to her when she talks?

Narrated in Kate's first person voice, *A Slight Change of Plan* is a funny, somewhat snarky, and totally down-to-earth story of a woman's journey into the second act of her life. Can online dating work for her? What if she actually reached out to her first love, Jake Windom, who "waved" to her on her online profile? Why do her children suddenly seem needy and full of opinions about her life and its changes? And what about her aging mother, suffering from dementia, who now needs someone to look after her?

I loved the very real characters, like her old friend Cheryl, who grows pot in her backyard and has some unique ideas about relationships. And then there is a new and fascinating man who will be her daughter's new father-in-law. As the possibilities begin to present themselves, Kate will begin to realize that making plans is not all it is cracked up to be. What a delightful story, full of wonderful characters, and there wasn't a boring moment to it. I wanted to enjoy them all for a long time to come. 5 stars.

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## **Sharon says**

### **My first book on my Kindle**

I chose this book because I liked the story line and I wasn't disappointed. The characters were very believable and likeable (except for Elaine!). I will read Dee Ernst again!

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## **Alicia Jones says**

So funny!!

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### **Ninon says**

I don't think I've ever rated a book this low. I so wanted to like it because I found myself in similar circumstances at about the same age, but I thought the writing was so prosaic with cliched phrasing and predictable plot points. I couldn't wait to finish it and usually, I feel the opposite about books. In a word, meh...

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