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Home

Undeadly

Survival of the Fittest and How the Lost Boy Survived It All

No Strings Attached

T.I.T.O.R.

Walker's Vale

Gertrude & Grace

codename shortfall

Manner of the Sundog

The Bone Season

Waiting for Paint to Dry

Pillar of Fire

The Decontamination of Grey Matter

Fenian's Trace

Fer

Blurred

The Trouble with Playing Cupid

Posted on 27 July 2017 By Maggie Shipstead

## ~Download Ebook ? Seating Arrangements ? PDF or E-pub free

~Download Ebook ? Seating Arrangements ? A San Francisco Chronicle And Daily Candy Best Book Of The Year Winner Of The Los Angeles Times Book Prize For First Fiction

Winner Of The Dylan Thomas Prize The Van Meters Have Gathered At Their Family Retreat On The Island Of Waskeke To Celebrate The Marriage Of Daughter Daphne To The Impeccably Appropriate Greyson Duff The Weekend Is Full Of Champagne, Salt Air And Practiced Bonhomie, But Long Buried Discontent And Simmering Lust Stir Beneath The Surface Winn Van Meter, Father Of The Bride, Is Not Having A Good Time Barred From The Exclusive Social Club He S Been Eyeing Since Birth, He S Also Tormented By An Inappropriate Crush On Daphne S Beguiling Bridesmaid, Agatha, And The Fear That His Daughter, Livia Recently Heartbroken By The Son Of His Greatest Rival Is A Too Ready Target For The Wiles Of Greyson S Best Man When Old Resentments, A Beached Whale And An Escaped Lobster Are Added To The Mix, The Wedding That Should Have Gone Off With Military Precision Threatens To Become A Spectacle Of Misbehavior

UPDATE 1.99 special today This book is GREAT I should have given it a solid 5 stars when I read it.as I STILL remember it The characters will make you cringe none of them are likable but you ll have soooooo much fun with this story A wedding from hell lolMaggie is a wonderful writer I can t wait for a new release from her This book is worth jumping at for 1.994.7 stars Maggie Shipstead s writing is explosive and exciting Seating Arrangements felt like a warm summer tropical storm with outburst of nature s groans of roaring wind and rain Yet.its the people less anything to do with the weather that I m referring to Its not often I read a book THIS GOOD in where every character is annoying not easy to love , yet I can say, DAMN, THIS BOOK CRACKS ME UP The writing the writing the writing Makes this story FUN I knew I was in for a hell of a ride early into this story when The Father of the Bride , was remembering back to when his daughter was about 5 years old Here is a small part of the conversation

Daddy, Am I a Princess No, Winn said, you re a very nice little girl Will I be a princess someday Winn bent the top of his newspaper down and looked over it It depends on whom you marry What does that mean Winn explains to Daphne two different ways of how a woman becomes a princess I m leaving out a few details here Then Winn returned to his reading Daphne is not done Daddy WHAT Am I YOUR princess Christ, Daphne What You sound like a kid on TV Why Because You re full of treacle What s treacle Something that s too sweet It gives you a stomachache She nodded, accepting this But she pressed on am I YOUR princess To the best of my knowledge, I don t have any princesses What I do have is a little girl without dignity What s dignity Dignity is behaving the way you re suppose to so people will respect you Do princesses have dignity Some Do Which Ones I don t know Maybe Grace KellyThe conversation WON T stop Daphne won t let it..lolDaphne keeps pushing until her dad gives in ALL RIGHT, YOU ARE MY PRINCESS Really Absolutely Daphne nodded then ate a grape Then she cocked her head to one side Am I your FAIRY princess..ThenThere are powerful lines like this between girlfriends Its been awhile since you ve talked to him right Dominique pressed Just keep going with that Invest some time I mean think of it this way How do you think it looks if you go around mooning over him for months after he dumped you Confession time WHO hasn t wanted to

say this to a friend Or ENOUGH ALREADY Or..Who can t relate to a line like this at some point in your life Distant and time had been good for their friendship Dominique had come to realize Daphne s life was not her responsibility, and now in return, almost a decade later, Daphne seemed to value her precisely because she was less fun than Piper or Agatha, because she was not tiny and blonde, because she preferred quiet bars to lounges crowded with bankers, because she tried to be honest Seating Arrangements is one LONG WEEKEND the wedding week end an aphrodisiac love was in the air, weak, and snappy as static electricity And as for the characters themselves words like swine, dirtbag, and sleazebag might enter your thoughts from time to time This book is not for the innocent not a book for people who MUST love the characters A very yuppie edge Filled with self obsession people Yet within the ethics of behavior hedonism family fidelity this book has a very alluring quality about it I liked it and LOVED the author s witty writing style I should know by now that choosing a book because its cover is cute and pastel and featuring two lobsters in love is not reason enough And yet, those were my main motivations in reading Seating Arrangements by Maggie Shipstead Halfway through reading this book I stopped and asked myself if I was failing as a reader perhaps it was a satire and not meant to be read with an earnest eye It wasn t until the last sentence that I felt safe in saying that there was definitely some attempted criticism of the East Coast WASP contingent, but it needed to firmly pick a lane The book spent far too little time on the interesting and sympathetic characters Daphne, Dominique, Biddy and instead focused on Winn, the stale patriarch of the family, with short interspersed passages from the point of view of other self absorbed and detestable characters I also could not get past the character names I know it is a running joke that waspy types go by odd nicknames but in a group of twenty people how probable is it to find a Biddy, Fee, Dicky Jr., Fenn, Winn, Teddy, Tipton, Greyson, Sterling, Oatsie, and Mopsy I d recommend passing on this one and instead picking up Gone Girl, Prep, or The Paris Wife if you need a light but still substantive read. A review of Seating Arrangements, aka, The Whitest Book I ve Read All Year And I read The Marriage Plot. A few nights ago, as I was preparing to check this book out of a venerable New England institution that shall remain nameless, I felt the hand of a man I knew to be very elderly graze the entirety of my ass, from left to right As if to explain the action, the owner of the hand leaned in to whisper the title of this book into my ear Wine and cheese were had by all. I recount this story because the experience of it was a lot like the experience of reading this book audacious and inappropriate, but not without a weird sort of charm If you like your protagonists to be, well, likable, don t bother, because the world doesn t need another reviewer judging an author for not writing characters of sterling character Maggie Shipstead has written a story in which those dudes you see in whale embroidered pants turn out to be exactly what one would expect from those dudes you see in whale embroidered pants. The bad news is that the main character reminded me of Mitt Romney, and there are sex scenes. I read so many great reviews about this book that I thought I has to be great Now,

having just finished I am wondering what all the hype is about Maybe, I am not sophisticated enough to enjoy a book about a family that I thought were not very deep and so self involve they can t be bothered to think about anyone but themselves I don t know, it was just a big let down The Story is about Winn, a 59 year old married father of 2 daughters His oldest is getting married, she is seven months pregnant His other daughter has just gone through a traumatic breakup and seems to be quite a wet blanket with major anger issues that are never addressed during the entire story I hate to read a book where the main character is a person I dislike I didn t find anything about him that was likable and it doesn t change Winn doesn t change He is too worried about status, how things look to others, fitting in with the right people His is a cold fish with the hots for one of his daughters bridesmaid, Agatha Even Agatha is a complete bitch sorry I don t recommend this book at all I will stick with my less sophisticated novels about people I can find sympathy with and or that I like. In a strange twist of irony, this book came to me as a recommendation from Sarah of at a time when I was literally working on seating arrangements for our daughter s upcoming wedding Serendipity Thankfully this group of pretentious, shallow WASP ish characters in the book bears no relationship to my own family But what fun they were to read about The VanMeter family, which includes the pregnant bride to be, Daphne, her parents, Winn and Bidy, along with her sisters and the bridal party gather at their summer home the weekend before the wedding What follows is wickedly funny social satire.If you enjoy a well written story with dysfunctional characters you love to hate, then this is the book for you There are deeper meanings underneath the ridiculousness that makes it a light read with substance My one criticism, and what kept it from a 4 star rating, is too much time was spent on Winn and his midlife crisis musings As amusing as they were in small doses, it grew tiresome after a while Making him just a little bit relatable and sympathetic would have gone a long way.A solid, enjoyable 3 stars. What a puzzle It s been a long time since I ve read a book about which I felt so little Seating Arrangements contains some beautiful writing and deftly woven dialogue, characters who seem real enough, if reassuringly unlike anyone I ve ever known, and a few laugh out loud momentsWhy had this man of all men made so many sons who wanted to fuck his daughtersWe get plenty of viewpoints as the story reveals itself, but the transitions between them feel contrived, as though we re meant to be admiring artistry that disdains traditional immersion I certainly neither related to any of these narrators nor wanted to do so To be fair, contemporary literary fiction is not one of my favorite genres, and the subset of upper crust Cape Cod wedding gone wrong invokes a special brand of apathy I ve no doubt there s a market for this, and it caters to aspirational women who correlate dissatisfaction and depth and wear a lot of sky, sea, sand and shell on the coast For my part, I ll stick with Shipstead s short stories, which have always been a delight.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

"Beneath the surface of this summery romp lie animosities, well-paced sexual suspense and a clash between appearances and authenticity. . . . Waltzlike."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

# Seating Arrangements

MAGGIE SHIPSTEAD



Have I all of a sudden become 85 years old and intolerant of all popular culture Last night I gasped and tssked through the film adaptation of The Descendants, sputtering that if viewers see that George Clooney s own children don t respect him then they re going to be all like oh well I guess it s okay if my kids don t respect me either And now here I am reading Seating Arrangements by Maggie Shipstead and being similarly outraged This book, in a word, is MISOGYNISTIC The whole premise is INAPPROPRIATE I get that it s poking fun at a guy who wants only to achieve acceptance of his peers, and values WASPy aspirations over any paternal or marital happinesses, but jeez why does this book have to trivialize everything feminine Why do the sisters have to hate each other so palpably Why can t anyone show anybody any mercy, or courtesy, or chivalry Why is the message here that sex is meaningless, and girls suck, and rich people are turds and blue collar laborers are also And that it s funny to tell the elderly grandmother of your daughter s future husband that she is dying soon What The whole time I read this, I was just like, why do we no longer need to have morals or ethics, what is wrong with America I think I just need to read classics from previous centuries because first novels today totally sicken me. Well, turns out I just do not give a shit DONE. Boo hoo being rich is such a drag because sometimes your beach house on an exclusive island isn t enough, and you want to get into a private club, but they won t have you. Here s an example of some really bad writing from this book The lobsters had turned the clownish red of death Blech Bad writing It abounds in this book Not everywhere, but it s there And it strikes you, and you go, What the and then you move on, try to shake it off, but you re still like, What kind of stupid metaphor was that or Jeez, she s painting the lessons with a really heavy hand, but still you keep reading. I didn t like this book The protagonist is a stunted, old fashioned, prudish guy who happens to have chased a ton of tail who is blind to his immaturity and selfishness, and who thinks he should be entitled to what other people have I hated him I didn t really like anyone else in the book WASPy and elitist, and not very well behaved, all the characters were bland and obnoxious at the same time Don t bother reading it You ll be bored The weekend is boring Even with an affair, and people falling off roofs, and whales exploding, it reads like nothing happens, and it s just blah BLAH Seriously.

## New Post

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Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet

The Host

Walden

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The Dogs of Babel

The Way the Crow Flies

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The Photograph

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