



# Margarettown

By Gabrielle Zevin

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## Margarettown By Gabrielle Zevin

In the playful tradition of *The Time Traveler's Wife* comes an enchanting story about love in its many forms, and a man's timeless journey into the unknowable territory of the woman he loves. From the moment they first sleep together -- piled atop seven mattresses in her dorm room -- N. is pulled ineluctably into a rich and enchanted relationship with Margaret Towne, a woman who will introduce him to worlds he never dreamed existed.

Written as a final letter from N. to his young daughter, Jane, *Margarettown* recounts the story of his relationship with Margaret. Margaret Towne is the name of the woman he loves and of the town she introduces him to, Margarettown. It is a place both real and imagined, located somewhere in upstate New York and home to a mysterious "family" of women named Old Margaret, Marge, Mia, Maggie, and May. In this strange and fantastical place, N. and Margaret become joined forever. *Margarettown* is a story of what it takes to love the same person for a lifetime and about the impossibility of really knowing anything about who it is we have come to love.

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## Margarettown By Gabrielle Zevin Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

An unusual telling of boy-meets-girl, Zevin's debut reiterates female complexity through a husband and daughter's experiences with one surprising woman. N., the earnest narrator, describes meeting captivating, mercurial Maggie Towne when he's a grad student. They travel to her childhood home, Margarettown, where he finds no inhabitants save women named Margaret: there's giggling girl May, sullen teenager Mia, bitter middle-aged Marge, wise elderly Old Margaret and suicidal artist Greta, conspicuous by her absence. It's not giving much away to reveal that these women are all Maggie herself ("you won't find a woman in the world that doesn't have a couple other women inside her," she says), though whether Margarettown is a real place or N.'s invention is left in doubt. While the book's first half concerns N.'s struggles to love and understand the various manifestations of Margaret, the end belongs to their daughter, Jane, who reads her father's version of her parents' courtship after they both have died. In between, subplots—about N.'s happy-go-lucky guardian, Margaret's and N.'s adulteries, and N.'s rejected former girlfriend, who eventually falls for N.'s sister, Bess, and raises Jane with her—sometimes feel like padding on a conceit that would have been better expressed in a short story. But the story is darkly whimsical and Zevin's writing is both playful and touching. *Agent, Jonathan Pecarsky at William Morris. (May)*

From [Booklist](#)

In this fanciful first novel, a man called N. travels to Margarettown with a woman he loves named Margaret Towne. It is inhabited solely by four women: Old Margaret, who is 77 and can read minds; fiftysomething Marge, who is stout and hates men; 17-year-old Mia, who writes and draws constantly; and 7-year-old tomboy May. The novel is cast as a letter written by a dying N. to his and Margaret's daughter relaying their courtship and marriage. N. takes a great deal of poetic license in describing the many facets of his wife's personality, seeking to impart to his daughter something of the emotional truth of their relationship. The novel is, at times, an affecting portrayal of intimacy and how one's identity is impacted by aging and experience. It is also so elaborately conceived and executed that its artificiality can impede engagement. Conversations sometimes meander seemingly without point, and at other times, the points are made a bit too often and too insistently. Still, the novel can be deeply insightful about marriage, presenting it as equal parts bravery and foolishness. *Joanne Wilkinson*  
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Review

"A droll piece of romantic whimsy, with an unexpected resonance." -- *Kirkus Reviews*

"Effectively taut prose." -- *Entertainment Weekly*

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Nikki Jones:**

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love Margarettown, you could enjoy

both. It is excellent combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its called reading friends.

**Lucas Florio:**

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you actually, why because this Margarettown book written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who read the book. Written inside good manner for you, leaking every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still uncertainty Margarettown as good book not only by the cover but also by the content. This is one reserve that can break don't judge book by its include, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

**Bruce Crawford:**

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