

Two Long Island Authors Write About Marriage

Long Island authors S.B. (Susan) Lerner and Rachel Eddy have written captivating books about marriage, but the similarity ends there: one book is a novel set in 1930s Poland, the other a memoir about recent events.

Susan Lerner's novel, *A Suitable Husband*, is a compelling and superbly written page-turner that takes place in 1930s Poland and shatters the myth of quaint little "shtetls" populated by Orthodox Jews. "In fact," says the author, "there were many politically active young Jews, often non-religious, determined to live their lives free of discrimination. That



meant either fighting for their rights in Poland or starting over in Palestine. They banded together into youth groups, and were organized, intelligent and resourceful. They defied their parents, established kibbutzim—communal farming communities—made up their own rules and invented their own moral code."

"*A Suitable Husband* explores love in a time of heightened tensions," says Ms. Lerner. "The love between a mother and her children, a passionate first love, and a gentler, more mature love. There is also the kind of love that exists among people who share a dream; in this case, the dream of Palestine." The story follows Bianca

Lieber, a young woman caught between the old ways and the new, exploring her womanhood and weighing her marriage options. Does she choose Alex, a stable but old-fashioned young doctor introduced to Bianca by the local matchmaker, or does she allow Wolf, a daring and dashing Zionist leader to capture her heart? With its engaging characters, appealing subplots, and fascinating historical background sprinkled throughout, *A Suitable Husband* is a highly satisfying read.

Susan began writing fiction when she was single and working at a high pressure job in Manhattan. Seeking a creative outlet, she followed her muse and enrolled in a short story workshop. She wrote her first story in a fit of inspiration, and when her teacher called it a "little gem," Susan was hooked.

A few years later, by now married and a mom, living on Long Island and working only part time, Susan decided to write a book about her dad and his early life in Poland—with no thoughts of publishing. She wrote it for family and friends so the story would not be forgotten by future generations. A writer/editor who worked with her loved the book and recommended it to his publisher, who bought the eBook rights.

A Suitable Husband and Susan's other book, *In the Middle of Almost and Other Stories*, are available from Amazon in paperback, and as e-books for Kindle and Nook. The novel is also at Penn Books, an independent bookstore located in Penn Station. For more information, visit sblerner.com

Imagine receiving a marriage proposal on the *Sex and The City* film set of in front of hundreds of people. That's exactly what happened to Rachel Eddy when her boyfriend of three

years singled her out of 300 extras, got down on one knee and popped the question. Before Rachel could respond, a woman let out a shriek. All eyes followed the shrieker, who turned out to be none other than Sarah Jessica Parker. She and her co-stars were all witnesses to the proposal.

Thus began Rachel Eddy's wild romp trying to plan the perfect Manhattan wedding ... in just four months! *Running of the Bride* takes readers through the entire insane experience, and the result is an honest, laugh-out-loud account. Rachel is not only a gifted storyteller and a superb writer, she has an engaging sense of humor—and timing—that keeps readers glued to the page.

After going through three agents in two and a half years, with nobody able to sell the book, Rachel decided to represent herself. She made a promise to herself: "If I didn't get a contract by my 30th birthday—just three short weeks away—I'd shelve the whole project. It was an insanely unrealistic goal, but I didn't know what else to do."

So she sent out queries to her top 20 editors and hopped a plane to Ireland to escape. While overseas, she received a call that her seemingly healthy father—her lifelong writing mentor—had suffered a heart attack and needed emergency bypass surgery. She rushed home, dropped her suitcase off at her parents' house and was standing in the driveway about to go to the hospital when she opened an email from her dream editor—and he was making an offer. "Years of trying—and crying—and the offer came ONE HOUR before my dad woke up from his life-threatening surgery," recalls Rachel. "He's told me many times that it was this news that aided his recovery." Her book launch party was one year to the day after her dad's heart attack and she was thrilled that he was able to attend.

Since the book came out in May, Rachel has appeared on television and radio shows, taught a memoir-writing class at the Brooklyn Book Festival, and has been a Skype guest at book clubs.

Rachel shared some additional news: she is expecting a baby in several months. If we're lucky, she'll write about that experience also, and we'll definitely have another winning book in our hands!

Running of the Bride is available in print and as an e-book at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and in bookstores. For more information, visit racheleddy.com.

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