

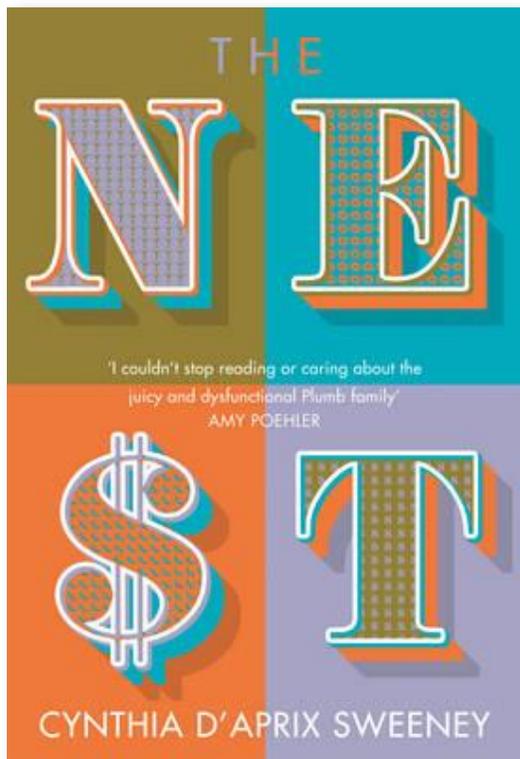


Helping you choose
your next book

Lovereading Reader reviews of **The Nest** By Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney



Below are the complete reviews, written by Lovereading members.



Annette Woolfson

Dysfunctional families – don't you just love 'em? Especially when they take the form of the Plumb siblings in this cracking debut by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney. The four siblings all have their different issues and they are all beholden to their eldest brother Leo to bail them out. Trouble is, Leo is a cocaine-taking, self-obsessed, drink-driver with problems of his own.

*I loved this novel. **The characters, their inter-entwined lives, and the messes they have made – it kept me reading well into the wee small hours. There is humour, pathos and beautiful observation to detail in this novel.** I truly hope this is the*

start of a monumental body of work by this author.

Angie Rhodes

Leo Plumb is one of those men, that just take what they want and do what they want, and hang the consequences, only this time the consequences are serious. After getting rather tipsy at a party and flirting with a waitress, they drive off in Leo's sports car, which ends in an accident.

The rehab costs are crippling and his close family have to pay, using the money from "the nest" to say the family are annoyed, angry and disappointing is an

*understatement. Add to this Jack and his secret wedding, and money borrowing. Melody struggling with motherhood, and Bea, who has writers block, and you have a wonderful story of one of the most dysfunctional but loving families you could wish to meet, **The dry humour, entwined with the tenderness of the story is just perfect!!***

Suzanne Marsh

*'The Nest' is Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney's first novel. **This is a novel with problems for the Plumb family. I personally like reading novels about family problems.***

Leo Plumb left his cousin's wedding drunk with waitress Matilda Rodriguez in his sports car. Leo avoided his wife, Victoria, who was barely speaking to him. Jack and Leo were brothers but they weren't friends. Jack had worked hard to distance himself from the Plumbs. Leo spends time in rehab. Beatrice Plumb was a writer, until very recently had stopped. Nobody remembered who started calling their eventual inheritance The Nest, but the name stuck. Melody was just sixteen when Leonard Plumb Sr. decided to establish a trust for his children. What can possibly happen next for the Plumb family?

www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com

Jennifer Moville

This book is about a family - their ties, their troubles and how they rub along together.

Beatrice, Leo, Jack and Melody are four siblings. They already know he has put money for their inheritance into a trust fund he calls The Nest but the ruling is that none of them get any money until the youngest Melody is 40 years old. Their father dies and the money is managed for them until the day of Melody's birthday - they know it has mounted up to a substantial amount.

But their mother has a shock for them all - she has the power to unlock some of the funds when she wants and they find out that she did this some years ago to bail out the eldest child Leo. He had been involved in an accident with a woman who wasn't his wife - a 19 year old waitress. He had debts to pay, was an addict and had to book himself into rehab, he had nowhere to live, no job and his wife wanted a divorce.

Now the siblings find there is only a fraction of the money left - and they want

Leo to pay back all the money he was given.

He promises to do so but has a 3 month plan - will it work - will they believe him - or will he fall back into his old ways.

This book keeps you thrilled with the wonder of what happens next. Don't expect to do much else if you pick up this book - it kept me glued to it until the wee small hours as I lost track of time being engrossed in its pages.

Sarah Hamid

An enjoyable novel , which gives an insight into how a large family works, and in particular the effect a potential inheritance can have on family dynamics, and also other relationships.

I really enjoyed this novel, despite not being sure about it when I read the prologue. I haven't read an American novel recently and it took a while for me to feel familiar with both the setting and the author's use of language. However, as I got to know the siblings, and their partners and families, I got drawn in. I enjoyed finding out about each person's dreams and successes, insecurities and failures, in their careers and their personal lives. I liked the way more periphery characters were brought in, and subplots such as the Ground Zero one added to my interest and enjoyment.

I was surprised how moved I felt by the epilogue. I had really cared about these characters and what happened to them, which took me by surprise.

I think this book would appeal to readers of female American novelists such as Liza Klausmann ('Tigers in Red Weather'), Anne Tyler and Diane Chamberlain.

Karen McIntosh

A beautifully told story of a family with life mapped out before them. When they are forced to reassess things get very interesting.

'The Nest' is the story of a family who thought the future was all set but have to deal with changes they never imagined. 'The Nest' is a trust fund to be shared between the siblings once the youngest, Melody, reaches 40. When brother Leo, an undisciplined drug-taking, womanising waste of space ends up seriously injuring a female passenger in a car crash and needs a lot of money to pay her off and his soon-to-be ex-wife, their mother used 'The Nest' to fund it.

Needless to say the remaining siblings, Jack, Bea and Melody are none too pleased.

The story is wonderfully told, showing the reader how individuals can and will deal with whatever life throws at them. Sometimes things work out for the best when you have to reassess the best laid plans and find a new way forward. We see how the family are struggling with money but everything they do is relying on 'the nest' bailing them out one day. When they have to face that there is no money they become better people and end up with more satisfying lives as a result.

I really enjoyed the book. The New York setting was so vivid and played a vital part in the story. I loved reading about the various family members and their lives. Leo was an appalling person and I wouldn't have blamed them all if they had knocked him off. But this was not a murder mystery, rather a study of a family who found that they had the ability to rise above a horrible situation and become stronger for it.

Nicola Briggs

'The Nest' is a warm, funny and perceptive study of the complex nature of a family's love and how expectation, financial and otherwise, plays out in our lives.

Although initially put off by the opening scene, I very quickly became completely absorbed with the characters and the plot in this story. Both are very strong. Along with the Plumb family and their stories, there is a host of very interesting secondary characters whose lives were as entertaining.

The author dishes up some very complex moral dilemmas that many of us will recognise in some shape or form.

A compulsively readable, entertaining book - I look forward to the next book from Cynthia D'Apiz Sweeney.

Sharon McKinlay

Enjoyable story about siblings in a dysfunctional family waiting to receive their trust fund. Good debut.

Victoria Halliday

Terrific, un-put-downable, one of the best books of 2016. Read it now!

'The Nest', by Cynthia D'Apriz Sweeney, is a terrific debut novel about what happens to four grown siblings when a trust fund - the titular nest - is depleted to pay off the victim of a drug-fuelled accident caused by the eldest son. Each chapter is told from the point of view of different character so that the fallout from the depleted fund is seen from multiple different angles and viewpoints. This is a un-put-downable novel and should be on the list of best novels of 2016 (it will certainly be on my list!). Can't wait to read what this author produces next. If you get your hands on a copy of 'The Nest', clear your calendar and settle in for a fantastic read!

Katie Hoare

'The Nest' is a very well written book about the four Plumb siblings who were due to inherit The Nest upon the youngest siblings 40th birthday. The story starts with Leo, who leaves a party and driving under influence with a young waitress in tow, and this starts a catalyst of other disasters that has a knock on effect with the other siblings who are already struggling.

Leo, promises the other siblings that he will try and sort out the depleted nest, and the three other siblings begrudgingly give him the chance to rectify the situation. The story is told of how the financial struggles impact onto each of member of the family, and how some deal with old resentments, and how some manage to help each other out, whilst acknowledging their own situations.

The complex issues of how money, legacy and families are brilliantly told within this debut story, and how these issues are then intertwined with each of the sibling's partners and spouses. This includes of this impacts on them, and on their offspring.

Edel Waugh

This is the awesome story about the Plumb family, matriarch Francie, daughters Melody and Bea and sons Jack and Leo. When Francie's husband died leaving a nest egg for his children with specific instructions about when it is to be given out, no one could have foreseen the complications it would cause amongst the family. This was a fun read as you have this fairly well off family , each member has his or her own unique set of quirks, some good, some bad and

they all need to come together.

The two characters I loved to hate were Francie and her son Leo, I was eager to know where the plot was going to lead in relation to him, he was a horror !

Overall this was a great story of a family going through the ups and downs of life and inheritance with a selfish egotistical brother at the centre of it all.

www.edelwaugh.blogspot.co.uk Twitter @littlebookfairy

Evelyn Love-Gajardo

I had just returned from New York when I started reading this novel, which made it all the more realistic to me. I thoroughly enjoyed the book - the author had the ability to create realistic characters that you really cared about, apart from the truly awful Leo who is at the centre of events.

*This is not the sort of novel I would normally read but I was hooked from the start. **I would recommend it to anyone looking for good, contemporary American fiction. Definitely an author to look out for - I'll be waiting for the film!***

Kathryn Eastman

Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney's debut is an absolute joy to read. You'll find 'The Nest' a juicy page-turner as you discover if dysfunction can ever start to function as a family.

If you've ever relied on being bailed out financially or spent a sum of money in your head before ever receiving it, and who hasn't imagined what they would do with a windfall such as a lottery win or radio quiz prize money, 'The Nest' will resonate with you.

Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney puts that promise of a future payout in the heads of the four Plumb siblings and has an awful lot of fun at their expense. The fact that they've had to wait until they're middle-aged for their father's investment fund – the titular Nest – to pay out has worked contrary to how he intended. For rather than grow up and stand on their own two feet, it's held those dysfunctional Plumbs in sway and they're stuck in many of the same patterns of behaviour from their childhood.

Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney's debut novel is an absolute joy to read. Warm, witty, full of truths about families: the roles we play, the push and pull, the alliances,

petty jealousies and campaigns waged; about relationships and the secrets we keep; and about how much grief the whiff of future money, and perceived preferential treatment of one charismatic sibling can cause. You'll find 'The Nest' a juicy page-turner as you discover if dysfunction can ever start to function as a family.

www.nutpress.co.uk Twitter @katheastman

Claire Simms

Excellent novel regarding the Plumb family which evolves around The Nest, an inheritance left to them by their father.

An excellent story about Leo Plumb and his family which evolves around The Nest, where all the siblings are relying on the money for different things but an unexpected accident due to Leo costs them dearly which is repaid from the Nest.

Rachel Shapey

A compelling read about 4 adult siblings who are all waiting for their share of their father's inheritance called 'The Nest'. Dysfunctional family drama set in New York.

*This was a compelling read about four adult siblings who are all waiting for their share of their father's inheritance, called 'the NEST'. I found that I loved and hated the characters in equal measure! They are not particularly close at the start of the novel, but are forced to address their issues and relationships when Leo is bled out with the money from the nest. Their dysfunctional dynamic was frustrating and at times I wanted to scream at them 'sort yourselves out! You are grown ups for goodness sake!' **I did enjoy this novel, as there are a number of humorous moments and it does reach a climactic point, but I then felt slightly dissatisfied by the ending.** I would certainly read another novel by this author.*

Kathryn Murphy

'The Nest' centres on the dysfunctional Plumb family, namely the Plumb siblings, who are brought together by an accident that jeopardises their once substantial trust fund and all their future plans with it.

I found that Sweeny gives a realistic portrayal of many modern families in her writing about the Plumb family- each member leads their own private life and

are only brought together by some kind of family drama or event. Although there are a number of different main characters (the four siblings), Sweeny is able to successfully convey and develop each one in quite a depth throughout the novel. I found that my favourite character, or at least the individual I was rooting for, constantly changed as the story progressed. In one chapter I would feel sympathy for a particular sibling but in the next my feelings towards them would turn into sheer exasperation. This made the novel very engaging as the love-hate relationship I found myself having with the family made me desperate to read on until the end of the book.

I will say that one quibble I did have was the fact there was quite a number of supporting characters and sub-plots that potentially could've been missed out and more time then spent on a more detailed and developed ending.

Overall I did really enjoy this novel and as someone who would not have necessarily chose a family-saga novel as my book of choice, I would happily read about the Plumb family all over again.

Suzanne James

This tale of a dysfunctional family had me completely engrossed in no time.

*In no time you find yourself immersed in the tangled lives of the Plumb family, so much so, that when you stop for a moment, you realise you are halfway through the book already. It is not just the family members who are well-written, well-rounded, believable characters - many of the peripheral characters are just as strong. **You can't help but identify a little with them all, even Leo, whose behaviour is unashamedly self-serving.** He may be the antihero but he has a certain irresistible charm that made him my favourite - part of me wanted him to come good and part of me secretly didn't. My only disappointment was that the end seemed a little too neat for a family with so many secrets and flaws*

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