(Free pdf) Alice Fantastic

Alice Fantastic

Maggie Estep
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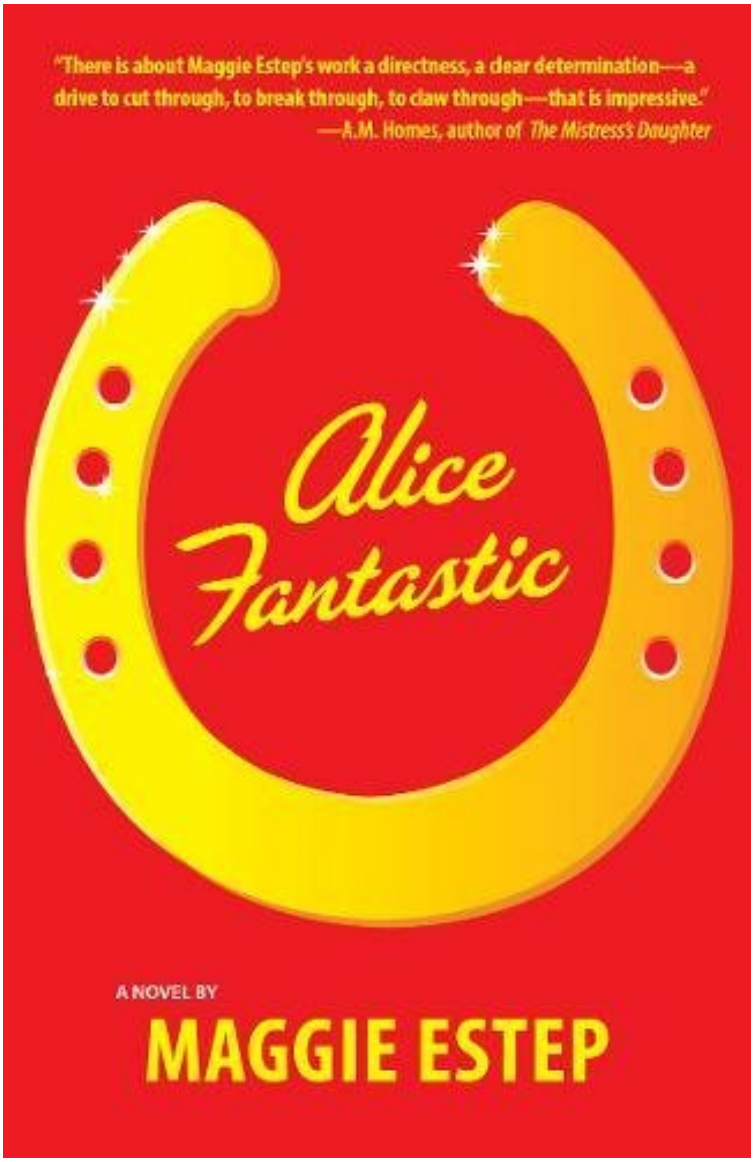

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Maggie Estep : Alice Fantastic before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alice Fantastic:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. great bookBy Walter T. BlythsomI was asked to read this in a creative writing class and I am really glad my instructor assigned it. I thought it was a ton of fun. I disagree with a previous reviewer that it is a "chick" book. Yes it is a bit dramatic but I found it very funny and mainly just enjoyable.

(I am male by the way.) I strongly recommend this novel. In fact, I'm only leaving this review because I wanted to find a good book to read and I figured I would see if this novel lead me to something else just like it.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another excellent read from Maggie Estep!!By LostboydpI've been a fan of Maggie Estep for a number of years...started with her spoken word CDs and her first book "Diary of an Emotional Idiot".Her latest book "Alice Fantastic" is another entertaining read. Like her prior books, you get a great sense of the characters...looks, background, feelings, temperment. The narrator changes each chapter, between the three main characters. She's used this before, and while initially they seem like seperate stories, as you get into the book, you see how they interlace and fill in as an a whole story.Besides the main characters and their growth, the secondary theme is finding homes for rescue dog, to save them from being euthenized.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gruff women warm to each other in this family drama - a sweet read!By CLS-LRSIn a charming piece that manages to be touching in spite of itself, Maggie Estep spins the story of how Alice Hunter, her sister Eloise, and their mother navigate their way through very challenging lives. Its a hysterically funny piece, full of gallows and self-deprecating humor. Novelist Jonathan Ames says Ms. Estep is the bastard daughter of Raymond Chandler and Anas Nin.So yes, the sisters are so abrupt with each other and their mother, both in thought and word, that their outward, gruff exteriors may be described as hard-boiled. And though the author portrays the ever-present inclination among all three to express and act upon their erotic desires, this inclination never intrudes on the story; it always serves it as an integral feature that at times brings the three women closer and at other times drives a wedge between them.This novel is about the growth of all three women, who are closer in age than most mother-daughter combinations. The women grow in fits and starts, through painful episodes, like the incarceration of a lover, and an unexpected pregnancy. Ms. Estep knows her subject, and doesnt let any of her narrative decay into sentiment (which is warded off by wise-cracking and verbal bullying), or rancor, because eventually we know its no more than skin-deep. This is the growth thats on offer. It will affect you; it gratifies with its balanced treatment and realistic conclusions.I enjoyed "Alice Fantastic" more and more as I got into it. Im glad I stuck with it because 40% of the way in, I wasnt sure I would. Give this a go. Maggie Esteps book is bright, clever, very well paced, and surprisingly affecting.

"The storytelling has vitality and a spirit of rebellion, giving us hope for the future of all those bad girls with dirty faces and bad boys on bikes."The New York Times"There is about Maggie Estep's work a directness, a clear determinationa drive to cut through, to break through, to claw throughthat is impressive."A.M. Homes, author of The Mistresss Daughter"Maggie Estep is the bastard daughter of Raymond Chandler and Anas Nin. Her prose is hard-boiled and sexy; she turns a good phrase and shows some leg."Jonathan Ames, author of Wake Up, Sir!Alice Hunter is a thirty-six-year-old professional gambler living in Queens, New York. She is modestly successful as a horseplayer and enjoys her work. Though avidly pursued by her lover, Clayton, who she refers to as The Big Oaf, Alice's closest companion is Candy, a small spotted dog, and Alice likes it that way. When Clayton's overzealousness leads Alice to ask one of her racetrack cronies to intimidate Clayton into leaving her, a few things go wrong and Alice turns to her half-sister Eloise, a toy maker, whose own lover has just been killed in a freak accident.There is fierce love between Alice, Eloise, and Kimberly (their unconventional mother), but it takes Alice's accidental discovery of an awful secret Kimberly has been keeping to truly bring three eccentric women, seventeen dogs, and assorted lovers together.Maggie Estep has published six books, including Hex, a New York Times Notable Book of 2003. Her work has appeared in many magazines and anthologies including: Brooklyn Noir, Queens Noir, Aloud: Voices from the Nuyorican Poets Caf, The Best American Erotica, and The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry. She has performed her work in a wide variety of venues ranging from Lincoln Center to Lollapalooza, Charlie Rose, and HBO's Def Poetry Jam. She lives in Woodstock, New York.

From Publishers WeeklyEstep's entertaining fifth novel features three womenhalf-sisters Alice and Eloise and their ex-junkie mother, Kimberlynavigating relationships, a half-dozen lovers and innumerable dogs. Alice, the elder sister, is a professional gambler and prefers to keep an emotional distance from her lovers. Things go wrong, however, when she attempts to shake off her latest boyfriend, Clayton; to her dismay, she finds she cares for the big oaf. Meanwhile, Eloise, whose boyfriend recently died, gets involved with the glamorous actress Ava Larkin, whom Kimberly met while walking some of the 17 rescued dogs she shelters. After Alice discovers a secret that Kimberly has been harboring, she and her sister are confronted with the need to transform their apparently coldhearted ways. Unfortunately, as the novel progresses, it loses the witty energy of its zinger first chapter, and, as compared to Estep's adventuresome characters, the conventional nature of Kimberly's secret disappoints. Nevertheless, Estep (Hex) captures the wily spirit of a woman more inclined to give her heart to a dog than to another person. (May) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistFew will be able to resist Esteps blend of barely controlled lunacy-cum-pathos and reconciliation in which fiftysomething Kimberly lives in Woodstock with her live-in lover, Betina, whos given to misdosing her psychotropic meds and standing naked in the living room. There are also Kimberlys 17 rescued dogs, and Eloise and Alice, her thirtysomething single daughters. Eloise, awarded a large settlement resulting from her fall into an open manhole, designs bizarre toys, such as cats

heads on cockroach bodies, and is heartbroken over Billy. Alice is a professional racetrack gambler whose lover no longer lives in their van now that hes imprisoned. One day Kimberly meets gorgeous movie star Ava, who hires her as an assistant, and before you can say sudden switch, Eloise and Ava are an item, while Kimberly finds unexpected love, and Alice takes up with William, who turns out to be, well, you get the idea. If everything is cosmically connected, then its especially so in Esteps surreal, sad, and sweet world, which is well worth a visit. --Whitney ScottAbout the AuthorMaggie Estep has published six books, including Hex, a New York Times Notable Book of 2003. Her work has appeared in many magazines and anthologies including: Brooklyn Noir, Queens Noir, Aloud: Voices form the Nuyorican Poets Caf, The Best American Erotica, The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry, and The KGB Bar Reader. Maggie was coeditor, with Jason Starr, of Bloodlines: