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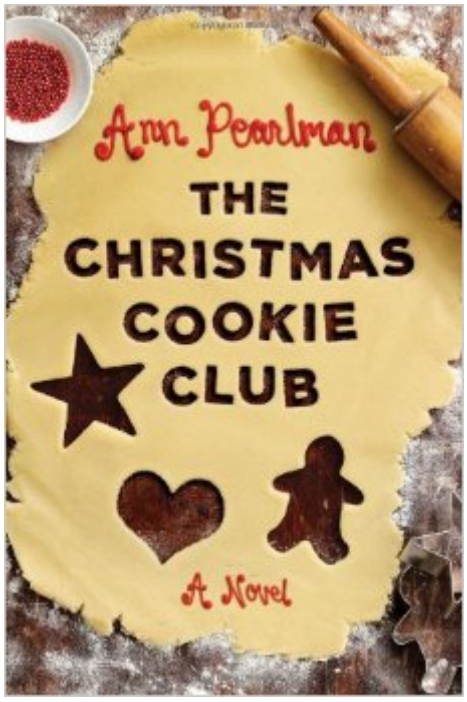
# The Christmas Cookie Club: A Novel

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## Synopsis

Every year at Christmastime, Marnie and her twelve closest girlfriends gather in the evening with batches of beautifully wrapped homemade cookies. Everyone has to bring a dessert and a bottle of wine, but this year, itâ ™s their stories that are especially important. Marnieâ ™s oldest daughter has a risky pregnancy. Jeannieâ ™s father is having an affair with her best friend. Taylorâ ™s life is in financial freefall. Rosieâ ™s husband doesnâ ™t want children, and she has to decide, very soon, the fate of her marriage. On this evening, at least, they can feel as a group the impulses of sisterly love and conflict, the passion and hopefulness of a new romance, the betrayal and disillusionment some relationships bring, the joys and fears of motherhood, the agony of losing a child, and above all, the love they have for one another. As Marnie says, the Christmas Cookie Club, if itâ ™s anything, is a reminder of delight. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

(Prologue)...."I AM THE HEAD COOKIE bitch and this is my party. The Christmas Cookie Club is always on the first Monday of December. Mark it on your calendar. Twelve of us gather, and thirteen dozen cookies wrapped in packages. Home-made, of course. We bring a dish to pass around and a bottle of wine".....The Christmas Cookie Club, is a tradition started some sixteen years earlier. Marnie (the head cookie bitch) and eleven of her closest friends, have kept this tradition going. The friends share how they met, their joys, their struggles, their disappointments, and more. They laugh together and cry together. Their stories are told in twelve alternating chapters, each of which

includes a tasty sounding Christmas cookie recipe for readers to try.My Thoughts: Certainly the message in this story is not a new one: close friends help each other through tough times, and are there to share the good times as well. Personally, I've read a few too many stories about friendship over the years. None of the characters were memorable or even the least bit endearing. I did enjoy the recipes, and I do see how some readers who enjoy light fiction, might think this was a great holiday read. For me, there just wasn't enough depth to the story, and you never really get to know any of the women. I understand that CBS Films has picked up the movie rights, and a sequel to this book is in the works as well. If you are looking for a quick, light holiday read, and enjoy stories about friendship, give this one a try.

This has got to be one of the most convoluted books I've read in a long time. It was nice having each character represented by a cookie recipe, but there were sections where the flow of the story came to a screeching halt while the reader endured the history of wheat, almonds, baking soda vs. baking powder, etc. While these baking facts were interesting, they detracted from the storyline and chopped the book up into frantic episodes.There were other inconsistencies not caught during the editing process, such as referring to the musical group "The Monkees" as "The Monkeys" and one particularly confusing discussion of eyecolor. Luke supposedly had combination brown/blue eyes. In the next sentence he had green eyes. Later he had glass green eyes.The concept of this book was great. I had high hopes. The author, Ann Pearlman, was nominated for both the Pulitzer and the National Book Award for a previous memoir. What happened? Why was this book seemingly thrown together?

I picked up this book with the intent to get myself into the Holiday spirit after a year filled with curveball after curveball.This book lived up to the promise I had for it! Not only am in the Holiday spirit, but now I am wanting to bake cookies, play some christmas music and start my only Christmas Cookie Club.The festive holiday cheer of the book made my heart happy. The friendships in the book made me think and cherish all of the close friendships I have. The tough times and heartfelt memories these women shared made me shed a tear and feel for them, as if they were my own friends. Maybe thats because all 10 women were easy to relate to, therefore, I put my friends and myself in their shoes.A GREAT holiday read and very easy to get thru. It only took me about 6 full hours to get thru the entire thing. The author keeps you reading by keeping you wondering what each women's story is and why she acts and is the way she is today because of it.I'd recommend this to anybody looking to get in the Holiday spirit and looking for a good latte and cold afternoon

read. Oh and of course, a copy of this book with be included with my Christmas Cookie Club invitations to my closest friends :)

The Christmas Cookie Club is not a typical cheery Christmas book. It is 12 stories of 12 different women and the good and bad of their lives. They join together once a year and exchange cookies and stories from the year. It is told through the eyes of the hostess, Marnie. She recalls her life with each of the women--how they met, a significant story from the past, or her own observations of them.After the first couple of chapters I was unsure if I would really enjoy this book because it seemed a little too sad and melodramatic. One scene was a little too gory and descriptive for my taste and I considered not going on, but I gave it another shot and I am glad that I did. There is a transition from the sadness to hopefulness. I was drawn into each woman's story and found them to be real and not easily tied up in a neat bow.Ultimately, this book is about friendship and love. It is about what binds these women together and how they support each other through joy and sorrow. It ends with lots of questions of the future, but with one certainty--the Cookie Club will continue and these women will support each other.The book consists of 12 chapters--one for each woman. Each chapter begins with a cookie recipe and ends with the history of one of the ingredients. The history part reminded me a bit of Alton Brown's Good Eats. I enjoyed it and even thought about the history of the ingredients as I was doing my own holiday baking.My main complaint about this book is the number of characters. I started to get a little lost about who was who by the end. It didn't detract from the overall meaning, but they just blended after a while. I could easily see this as a movie and that would probably make it a little easier to keep straight.I do think this book is geared towards women over 40. I am in my early 30s and enjoyed the book, but could not relate to most of the characters. I could see a bit of the connection with the younger versions, but I'm sure it would be more meaningful if I understood the older versions, too.Very much worth the read. I think I am going to try out at least one of the cookie recipes, too.

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