

THE OTHER THREE SISTERS

By Tara Meddaugh

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In juxtaposing times and places, Mary wrestles with the presence of the man in her life, Watts. The 18th Century Mary in London, based off of a short story written by Jane Austen, must decide if she will accept the hand of a man she hates to spite her unwed neighbors, or allow her younger sisters to receive this honor before she. The 20th Century Mary in Queens must decide if she will allow her husband, who has returned after years of a mysterious absence, to enter her life once more and be forgiven. While the time and place have changed over 200 years, the issues of appearance, family, money, and love remain the same.

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MARY'S EXPECTATIONS

*(excerpt from **THE OTHER THREE SISTERS**)*

Setting: 18th Century Mary has finally agreed to marry the large, ugly, boring Mr. Watts. While she does not love him, she would hate for his offer to go to her younger sisters and see one of them married before she. Additionally, her neighbors have not received an offer of marriage, and she looks forward to holding this over them. While she dreads a life with Mr. Watts, she looks forward to the riches and society gatherings a marriage affords. She reminds him of what he owes to her, and becomes increasingly excited and demanding as she imagines her life with him.

MARY

Remember the pinmoney—two hundred a year! And remember I am to have a new carriage hung as high as the Duttons', and blue spotted with silver. And I shall expect a new saddle horse, a suit of fine lace, and an infinite number of the most valuable jewels. Diamonds such as never were seen! And pearls, rubies, emeralds and beads out of number. You must set up your phaeton which must be cream colored with a wreath of silver flowers round it. You must buy four of the finest Bays in the kingdom and you must drive me in it every day. This is not all. You must entirely new furnish your house after my taste. You must hire two more footmen to attend me, two women to wait on me, must always do just as I please and make a very good husband. You must build me an elegant greenhouse and stock it with plants. You must let me spend every Winter in Bath, every Spring in town, every Summer in taking some tour, and every Autumn at a watering place, and if we are at home the rest of the year, you must do nothing but give balls and masquerades. You must build a room on purpose and a theatre to act plays in. The first play we have shall be "Which is the Man," and I will do Lady Bell Bloomer. You ask what you are to expect in return for all of this? In return, why...you may expect to have me pleased!

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