

Dear Editor/Producer:

Take a chance on love: this is the message illuminated in critically acclaimed author Amanda Eyre Ward's newest book, **LOVE STORIES IN THIS TOWN** (Ballantine Books; May 2009; Trade Paperback Original; \$14.00), a dazzling collection of short stories that traces the tender—and at times tumultuous—progression of love and relationships in a changing world.

With writing that invokes comparison to both Jhumpa Lahiri and Jennifer Weiner, Ward offers readers twelve stunning stories that explore love in all of its complexity, absurdity, and glory. From San Francisco to Savannah, Texas to Montana, Ward's characters are united in their fervent search for a place where they truly belong. In a Maine cabin, a new baby forces a couple to reconsider their lives. In a Montana mining town, a young woman must choose between the life she's always known and a new beginning. In suburban New York, a widow with a wry sense of humor braves the dating scene. And in six stories spanning a decade of her life, we meet Lola Wilkerson and follow as she elopes to Las Vegas, moves toward motherhood, and takes on a starring role in three generations of rich love stories.

Separately, these stories bring to life the experiences of women—women with careers, families, and busy schedules—working to find happiness and fulfillment in their lives. Collectively, Ward creates an absorbing conversation about how the lives of women are affected by love and relationships. Her depiction of human connection is poignant and honest and reveals that happiness is often found in the most surprising places.

Ward's previous novels, *Sleep Toward Heaven*, *How To Be Lost*, and *Forgive Me*, have been called "intimate [and] unflinching" (*O, Oprah Magazine*), "clear-headed and crisp" (*Entertainment Weekly*), "engrossing" (*Time Out New York*), "fun, satisfying" (*New Orleans Times Picayune*), and *People* magazine wrote "Ward...will keep you turning pages."

LOVE STORIES IN THIS TOWN is a compulsively readable collection that masterfully explores the many impulses of love in a fresh, probing, and witty way. I urge you to make plans for coverage this May. I will be in touch soon to discuss.

All best wishes,
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