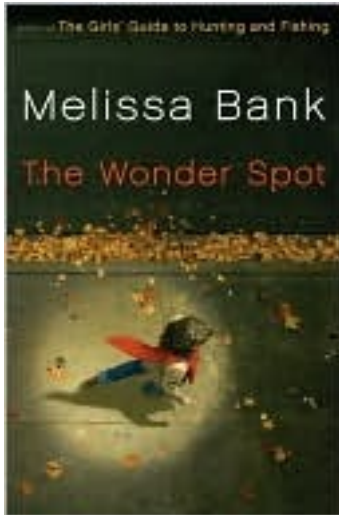

Melissa Bank

Wonder Spot



Title: Wonder Spot

Author: Melissa Bank

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Description

Six years after her amazingly successful debut, *The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing*, Melissa Bank rewards her fans for their patience with *The Wonder Spot*, a refreshingly honest interpretation of one young woman's journey into adulthood. As we follow heroine Sophie Applebaum through a comfortable, yet awkward childhood in suburban Pennsylvania to the challenges of finding love and a career in midtown Manhattan, *The Wonder Spot* is never guilty of the self-indulgent traps set by other members of the Chick Lit genre Bank helped launch.

We first meet the Applebaum clan on their way to cousin Rebecca's bat mitzvah in Chappaqua, New York, where Sophie ends up sneaking cigarettes in the woods with a handsome eighth grader one year her senior. Yet even this minor rebellion is more charming than anything else; as with most of her future transgressions, Sophie is less the instigator than the innocent witness. Defining moments in Sophie's life are revealed through her relationships: an almost mythical college roommate named Venice; her charismatic yet capricious older brother; her brilliant younger brother; her unpenetrable father; and her hilarious grandmother, who takes it upon herself to save her "Sophila" from "impending spinsterhood."

Of course, no real journey into young womanhood is complete without a series of commitment phobic, potentially delinquent, overly nice men whose appearances seem less about love than about demonstrating our heroine's inability to ever truly be comfortable with herself. As Sophie observes during a seventh grade skating party, "I felt sure that everyone was looking at me and then realized that no one was, and I experienced the distinct shame of each.

Undeniably clever, occasionally hilarious, and often poignant, *The Wonder Spot* is captivating enough for readers to forgive Sophie's indecisive, self-destructive tendencies and simply bask in her sincerity. --*Gisele Toueg*

Insightful reviews

Tory: "I hesitated, but when she handed the cigarette to me I took it, and when she lit the match I leaned forward. I imitated my mother accepting a light from my father and exhaled as she did, ceiling-ward.

Margie held her own cigarette between her teeth like a killer; she was imitating someone, too - maybe the Penguin from Batman."

"Up until that moment, I'd been at the earliest stage of love, when you feel it will turn you into the person you want to be. Now, his gentle voice and sage advice took me to a later stage: I felt I needed to pretend to be a better person than I was so he'd keep loving me. This was hard because it made me hate him."

This book was a lot better than I thought it would be, yet it wasn't as good as it could have been. The writer has an ability to make regular things seem like not a waste of time to be reading. Sophie, the main character was very likable, and realistic. Also, the story had a real-life

aspect that a lot of novels miss completely.

Mostly it was a book about relationships, love and loss. I liked it while I was reading it, but now I can't come up with anything that makes it either especially good, or especially bad

Alison: Whoever said those who were mediocre and middle class might like this was apparently right. I'm presumed to be both, and I think Melissa Bank has the best handle on the three-dimensional reality of being a single woman of anyone writing about "bachelorettes" today. Her protagonist has strong family relationships, complex friendships, moves through serious career changes, goes to school more than once, and gets beyond herself to examine others who have the same set of life's trials and tribulations. All without any mention of Bloomingdales, Manolo Blahnik or any of the other cliches of normal chick-lit set in Manhattan. She even gets her character to exotic locales like Williamsburg (VA, even, beyond Brooklyn!) and Pennsylvania. Well worth the backache of 10.5 hours in the studio listening to the author read this.

Angeld01: This book was terrible! Several years ago I read "The Girls Guide to Hunting and Fishing." And was excited when this one came out.

Our protagonist is a girl named Sophie who is in BAD need of anti-depressants or a therapist or something. Everything she does is sad and depressing, and everyone around her is sad and depressing. She is good and nothing, appreciates nothing and no one. Also, the story is told in little vignettes...so nothing is ever finished. She's having problems at work, awe, but the the next stage is introduced to her life and that's over. How did it end? Too bad? You'll never know.

At some point, her beloved father dies. How did that affect her? Who knows? It's mentioned only in irritated passing.

Yuck, yuck and yuck! If I could give it less than a star I would. I gave up after 200 some pages knowing it just wasn't going to turn around. I am only alive for so long on this planet...

Manda: I observed Melissa financial institution communicate whereas i used to be nonetheless in collage in 2005, whilst she had entire "The ask yourself Spot" yet had now not but released it. i actually loved "The Girl's advisor to searching and Fishing," so whilst I observed this ebook on the greenback shop (for a dollar!), I simply could not cross it up."The ask yourself Spot" follows Sophia Applebaum from overdue early life to maturity and chronicles occasions & emotions that many people experience: lack of a enjoyed one, the disgruntlement of a failed romance, and anxiousness over one's career. each one bankruptcy within the booklet represents a distinct vignette, however it isn't really a continuing novel. The tales relate to each other thematically, yet could be considered as brief tales in and of themselves.I didn't strongly dislike nor strongly like this novel. there have been a few attractive moments and passages, yet now not sufficient to make me suggest this learn to others past the fast learn within the airport (which is whilst I learn this). As i look via my latest reads, it sort of feels i've got learn loads of books these days that experience serious about the improvement of the feminine character...and whereas I hate to assert this, all of those reads have left me feeling a bit stale. The jacket of my reproduction of "The ask yourself Spot" speaks approximately Sophie "finding herself," and that i used to be quite hoping i'll adventure that vicariously. However, on the finish of this read, i am not fairly yes

i may say that this e-book used to be that transformative, and it left me disappointed.

Jeanette "Astute Crabbist": "It is an odd factor to finish a friendship, no matter if you recognize it really is what you want. it truly is like a death; instantly your adventure of an individual turns into finite." "On being in love: "The world's such a lot coveted kingdom is characterised by means of unrelieved lack of confidence and virtually consistent pain." "The advantage of being nowhere on your profession is that you should do it anywhere."

Michelle: this is often Banks' followup to A ladies advisor to looking and Fishing. She follows a tender Jewish girl from girlhood to maturity via dating after relationship, each seeming just like the finish all on the time. it really is fascinating to work out the character's viewpoint swap over time, in addition to to witness the changing/maturing of her familial relationships.

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