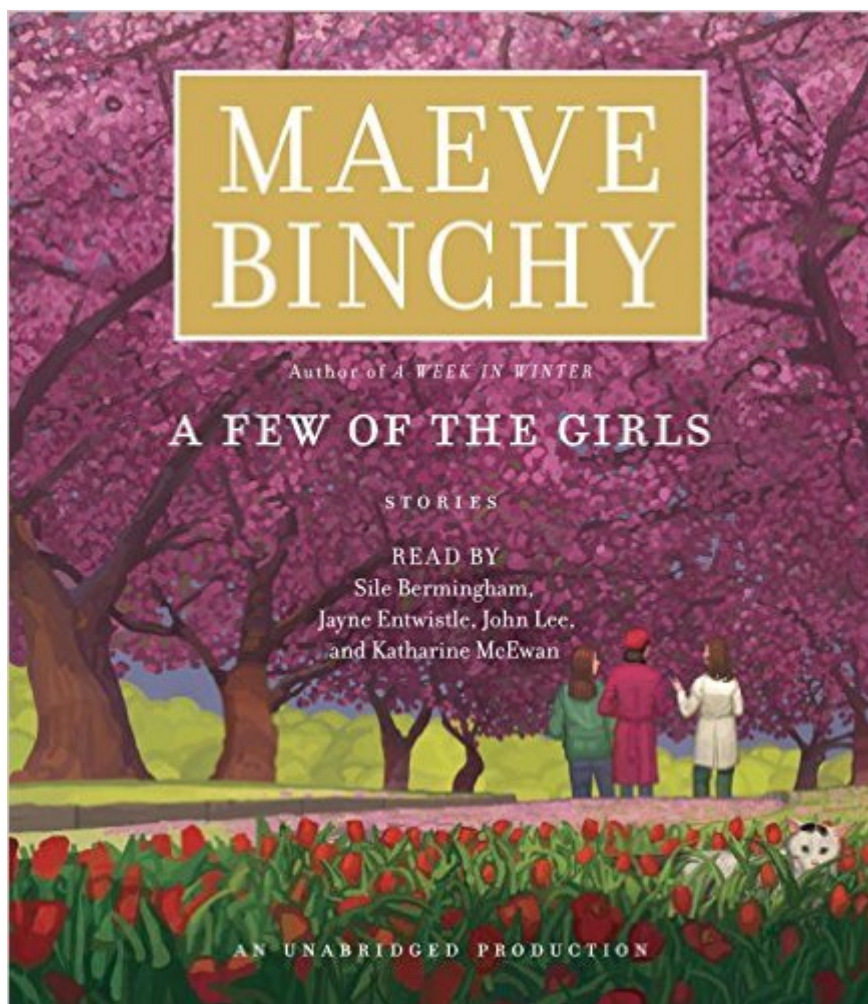


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A Few Of The Girls: Stories



Synopsis

From Maeve Binchy's earliest writings to the most recent, her work is filled with wisdom and common sense and also a sharp, often witty voice that is insightful and reaches out to her readers around the world and of all ages. Whether it is one of her best-selling novels or a short story, Maeve shows us that times may have changed, but people often remain the same: they fall in love, sometimes unsuitably; they have hopes and dreams; they have deep, long-standing friends whose secrets are shared; they go on holidays and celebrate new jobs . . . *A Few of the Girls* is a glorious collection of the very best of her short story writing, stories that were written over the decades—some published in magazines, others for friends as gifts, many for charity benefits. The stories are all filled with the signature warmth and humor that have always been an essential part of Maeve's appeal. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

I agree with the reviewer who wrote "It's Maeve Binchy." Not my absolute favorite volume of Binchy's, but, sadly, there probably won't be any more. I was interested by how she was experimenting with situations/characters that later appeared in her novels, like men who needed clothes rails or who weren't the sharpest knife in the drawer but still had good qualities and were "restful" to be around. Not at all a waste of money, in my opinion, but then I'm a hard-core Binchy fan.

Full disclosure: I have adored Maeve Binchy ever since her first book came out decades ago. "A

Few of the Girls", is a collection of short, short stories (most of them fewer than ten pages long). And while it's not the BEST of Binchy's writing...it's still classic Binchy; delightful, kind, witty, real. I'm going to copy a paragraph that made me laugh and that pretty much says it all about Binchy's writing style:"It was quite a drunken wedding and the bridesmaid did an entirely uncalled-for striptease, which she would probably regret for the rest of her life. Brian [the groom] was rather too appreciative of the bridesmaid's displayed charms, and there was an argument about trade unionism that did no favors to either side but alienated a lot of people permanently. Three of the pageboys were sick, and the bride's father got into a poker game where he lost five hundred pounds."Fans of Maeve Binchy won't want to miss this collection.

An OK collection of Maeve Binchy's short stories, but certainly not her greatest. To me, they seemed to be dry and slow moving, not Binchy at her funny and heartwarming best. I actually felt down after reading some of the stories, something I've never experienced before, from either her short or long fiction.

A FEW OF THE GIRLS is a collection of Maeve Binchy's short stories that span several decades of her writing career. Categorized into six major topics from Friends and Enemies to Holidays, readers who know Binchy's work could identify them as Binchy's even if they didn't see the author's name. The warm, big-hearted Irish storyteller with the subtle lessons to tell through the stories is absolutely there. For the scope of a short story, each story's characters are well-developed, and the plotline of each story moves well. Point of view (first person or third person) varies from story to story, and Binchy knew the best point of view (first or third person) for each story. BUT – This is a collection of short stories, about eight to ten pages each. Readers should not expect a novel, but anywhere from four to ten stories in each of the six categories. Binchy passed away several years ago, so I am always happy when her husband, Gordon Snell, finds more of her work. This is absolutely no exception.

Great for those times when you've just got few minutes to indulge in a read. Light but insightful stories that get to the heart of human nature. Some of these stories had me wanting to follow through with the characters in a longer narrative.

A collection of wonderful stories of life and love, family and friendship with a life lesson tucked into each. Some you'll wish were longer because, as always, you will find yourself enthralled with the

characters and their lives.

I have been reading Maeve Binchy's novels since I was a college student nearly twenty-five years ago. My first Binchy novel was CIRCLE OF FRIENDS which my younger self easily identified with, and eventually I discovered her other novels such as the memorable ECHOES, the heartbreaking THE GLASS LAKE, FIREFLY SUMMER, SILVER WEDDING, COPPER BEECH, and so many more. I confess that I am partial to her earlier novels and collection of short stories like LONDON TRANSPORTS (I have read every single Binchy novel and short story collection). Her newer novels, such as WHITETHORN WOODS, MINDING FRANKIE, etc. are still highly readable, but lack the intricate plots and in-depth character development that were hallmarks of her earlier works. When I saw this short story collection, I purchased it, not so much because I was expecting something new, but more to get a sense of the old and familiar, warm and cozy feelings I have always experienced reading Ms. Binchy's books. This is a mixed collection: some stories are well-written with insight into the flaws and frailties of Binchy's characters, and those ah-ha moments that her writing is known for. However, there are also many stories that I felt were not reflective of Binchy's tremendous talent and wit and seemed like they were unfinished or incomplete - perhaps these were just stories she had kept in a portfolio someplace that were not intended for publication, they seem raw and unpolished and lack insight, seeming rather banal. Unlike her earlier works, there is no deep sense of setting (one of the things I have always enjoyed about Binchy's novels is how they were able to transport me to Ireland). Whatever the reason, I am not sorry that I read this, but would caution readers not to expect something spectacular. Think of it instead as a way to re-connect and remember Ms. Binchy, who will always remain a beloved and much missed Irish storyteller.

I guess I didn't read the description of this book very well. I like Binchy usually but this was all short stories and just as one was developing into an interesting tale it was over. I quit reading about half way through as I was tired of the same type of tales over and over with no real "meat" to them.

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