

When the American Fantasy cruise ship sets sail for a four-day themed voyage, aboard are all five members of a famous nineties-era boy band and three thousand screaming women who have worshipped them since childhood.

Feeling slightly out of place amid this crowd is Annie, newly divorced, fifty years old with an empty nest, and here on a lark to appease her sister. Yet when the lights come up and the idols of her youth begin to sing, something is unlocked. Call it memory. Call it nostalgia. Call it the chemical reaction of hormones, hope, and sexual reawakening. Between the slushy alcoholic drinks, the familiar music, and the throngs of middle-aged women acting like lovesick teenagers, Annie finally reconnects to a long-submerged part of herself. By the time she meets one of the band members—not just a celebrity but someone in need of a friend—she has accessed a new sense of possibility.

In a smart and incisive book packed with laugh-out-loud reflections on fame, marriage, and middle age, Emma Straub delivers a richly textured story showing us that real passion is never truly lost, that what we love makes us who we are, and that deep meaning can sometimes be found in a sea of screaming fans.

**Emma Straub** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the novels *This Time Tomorrow*, *All Adults Here*, *Modern Lovers*, *The Vacationers*, and Laura Lamont's *Life in Pictures*, as well as the short story collection *Other People We Married*. She is also the author of three picture books. She is a Guggenheim Foundation Fellow, and her work has been published in more than twenty languages. Emma and her husband own Books Are Magic, an independent book-store in Brooklyn, New York.

Read by Marin Ireland



PENGUIN  
AUDIO

Runtime: 7h. 51m. • Unabridged

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EMMA STRAUB  
AMERICAN FANTASY

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