

For generations, Wester House has stood as a monument to influence and mystery in a small North Carolina town, and the Wester women have held the community enthralled. People respect them, many fear them, but no one truly understands them. How do they possess such an intimate, unsettling knowledge of those around them? Why is no one ever allowed inside the house? And why is Willamena Wester finally reaching out to the granddaughter she once pushed away?

The Westers have always balanced their need for control with their desire for love, but when that balance is off, disaster happens. To truly understand, you have to meet Willamena fifty years before. As a lovestruck young woman trapped in a stifling, picture-perfect life, she makes a fateful choice that changes her life forever.

Now Willamena's granddaughter, Bailey, is coming back to a town she tried to outrun, only to realize that the grandmother she feared was actually her fiercest protector. In a world of hidden truths, can a legacy of unhappiness be undone? And what does it take to finally break a curse? Bailey is about to learn that even the oldest hauntings can be healed by a new spark of hope.

Sarah Addison Allen's stunning prose will transport you to a place where magic mixes with the mundane, turning shadows into the most beautiful kind of light.

**SARAH ADDISON ALLEN** is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of eight novels. A native of Asheville, North Carolina, Allen is widely credited with bringing "Southern magic realism" to the mainstream. Her work, characterized by its romantic, lyrical prose and its exploration of family dynamics through a supernatural lens, has been translated into more than thirty languages and sold millions of copies worldwide. She currently resides in Asheville with her family.

READ BY MARIN IRELAND



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