

The House at the Edge of Night A Novel



BOOK DETAILS

- Author : Catherine Banner
- Pages : 432 Pages
- Publisher : Random House
- Language : English
- ISBN : 0812998790

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BOOK SYNOPSIS

A sweeping saga about four generations of a family who live and love on an enchanting island off the coast of Italy—combining the romance of *Beautiful Ruins* with the magical tapestry of works by Isabel Allende. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR *Castellamare* is an island far enough away from the mainland to be forgotten, but not far enough to escape from the world's troubles. At the center of the island's life is a café draped with bougainvillea called the House at the Edge of Night, where the community gathers to gossip and talk. Amedeo Esposito, a foundling from Florence, finds his destiny on the island with his beautiful wife, Pina, whose fierce intelligence, grace, and unwavering love guide her every move. An indiscretion tests their marriage, and their children—three sons and an inquisitive daughter—grow up and struggle with both humanity's cruelty and its capacity for love and mercy. Spanning nearly a century, through secrets and mysteries, trials and sacrifice, this beautiful and haunting novel follows the lives of the Esposito family and the other islanders who live and love on *Castellamare*: a cruel count and his bewitching wife, a priest who loves scandal, a prisoner of war turned poet, an outcast girl who becomes a pillar of strength, a wounded English soldier who emerges from the sea. The people of *Castellamare* are transformed by two world wars and a great recession, by the threat of fascism and their deep bonds of passion and friendship, and by bitter rivalries and the power of forgiveness. Catherine Banner has written an enthralling, character-rich novel, epic in scope but intimate in feeling. At times, the island itself seems alive, a mythical place where the earth heaves with stories—and this magical novel takes you there. Praise for *The House at the Edge of Night* “A perfect summer read, made for those balmy evenings on your porch with a glass of wine. . . . The story brims with heart, dreamy folk tales and beautifully written passages about the people who call the island home. . . . Just don't be surprised if you keep turning the pages long into the night, spellbound by its magic.”—*The Denver Post* “A gorgeous, sweeping story set over four generations . . . The novel calls to mind Captain Corelli's Mandolin and *Beautiful Ruins*. It is not just the protagonists and their struggles that make Banner's narrative incredible, but also the smaller, secondary characters that add color and detail, and the intricately described island of *Castellamare* itself.”—Interview “Banner's four-generation saga is set on an island near Sicily, where myths of saints get served up with limoncello as the Esposito family's bar. As the captivating characters are challenged by war, financial crisis and heartbreak, their bonds hold them together. The island is fictional, but consider this dreamy summer read your passport.”—*People* “Catherine Banner's latest is a masterful piece of storytelling, infused with the miraculous (both in stories and in everyday life) while maintaining the difficult balance between the explainable versus the inexplicable. Through the life of a single man—a man not noteworthy in the eyes of the world—and his family, Banner touches on such broad themes as community and the way global events play out in individual lives and larger society. And just as the broader themes affect the more personal ones, Banner's style echoes the book's content: *The House at the Edge of Night* is captivating and beautifully rendered.”—Sara Gruen, author of *At the Water's Edge*

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