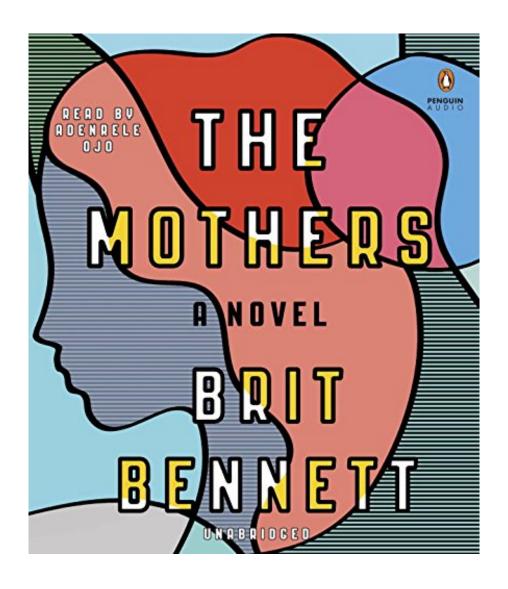


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#### Amazon.com Review

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"A wise and sad coming-of-age story showing how people are shaped by their losses." —Kirkus

From the Trade Paperback edition.

## About the Author

Born and raised in Southern California, Brit Bennett graduated from Stanford University and later earned her MFA in fiction at the University of Michigan, where she won a Hopwood Award in Graduate Short Fiction as well as the 2014 Hurston/Wright Award for College Writers. Her work is featured in The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine, The Paris Review, and Jezebel. She is one of the National Book Foundation's 2016 5 Under 35 honorees.

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NBCC John Leonard First Novel Prize Finalist
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An NPR Best Book of 2016
An Entertainment Weekly Best Book of 2016
A Vogue Magazine Best Book of the Year
A Goodreads Choice Award Finalist
One of Elle.com's Best Books of the Year

"Ferociously moving ... despite Bennett's thrumming plot, despite the snap of her pacing, it's the always deepening complexity of her characters that provides the book's urgency." –The New York Times Book Review

"Luminous... engrossing and poignant, this is one not to miss." –People, Pick of the Week

"Fantastic... a book that feels alive on the page." -The Washington Post

A dazzling debut novel from an exciting new voice, The Mothers is a surprising story about young love, a big secret in a small community—and the things that ultimately haunt us most.

Set within a contemporary black community in Southern California, Brit Bennett's mesmerizing first novel is an emotionally perceptive story about community, love, and ambition. It begins with a secret.

"All good secrets have a taste before you tell them, and if we'd taken a moment to swish this one around our mouths, we might have noticed the sourness of an unripe secret, plucked too soon, stolen and passed around before its season."

It is the last season of high school life for Nadia Turner, a rebellious, grief-stricken, seventeen-year-old beauty. Mourning her own mother's recent suicide, she takes up with the local pastor's son. Luke Sheppard is twenty-one, a former football star whose injury has reduced him to waiting tables at a diner. They are young; it's not serious. But the pregnancy that results from this teen romance—and the subsequent cover-up—will have an impact that goes far beyond their youth. As Nadia hides her secret from everyone, including Aubrey, her God-fearing best friend, the years move quickly. Soon, Nadia, Luke, and Aubrey are full-fledged adults and still living in debt to the choices they made that one seaside summer, caught in a love triangle they must carefully maneuver, and dogged by the constant, nagging question: What if they had chosen differently? The possibilities of the road not taken are a relentless haunt.

In entrancing, lyrical prose, The Mothers asks whether a "what if" can be more powerful than an experience itself. If, as time passes, we must always live in servitude to the decisions of our younger selves, to the communities that have parented us, and to the decisions we make that shape our lives forever.

• Sales Rank: #648911 in Books

• Published on: 2016-10-11

• Released on: 2016-10-11

• Formats: Audiobook, CD, Unabridged

• Original language: English

• Number of items: 8

• Dimensions: 5.90" h x 1.20" w x 5.00" l,

• Running time: 600 minutes

• Binding: Audio CD

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From the Hardcover edition.

Most helpful customer reviews

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Beautifully written story of haunting decisions

By sonnetgirl7

"The Mothers" is unlike anything I could have expected. A young teenage girl whose mother committed suicide becomes pregnant. Her decision - enabled by the decision of the father's parents - effect everyone involved for years to come. Looking back across this story are the Mothers, the elderly women of an African American church called The Upper Room. With wisdom and insight, they empathize, shake their heads, sigh, and show compassion to the young couple, and the others who come into contact with their hidden heartache and regret. Written with depth of feeling for the characters, who continue to make hurtful mistakes while still caring deeply for others, it's a story of how one decision - seemingly fair and sound - can change the trajectory of several lives.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

4 Stars

By Kindle Customer

So many things to love in this book about love, loss, family, friendship and life. I finished last night yet cannot stop thinking about this story and it's characters. I'm still wondering about them and what will happen to them all as they move forward with their lives where the book leaves off.

## **SYNOPSIS**

This story is m mostly told from the point of view Nadia, a highly intelligent, determined yet conflicted, complicated young lady and also told from the point of view of a group of "Church Mothers" from a very tight knit church called Upper Room. There are chapters featuring other points if view but it's mostly Nadia and the Mothers.

When Nadia Turner is 17 years old she loses her mother. She and her mother were very close so she is completely devastated. Her father, Robert, is so caught up in his own grief that he seems to forget that he's solely response for a 17 year old girl who may be handling her loss in self-destructive ways.

To deal his wife's untimely death, Robert turns to the church where the Turner family has always worshipped and his late wife was a very active member. Robert finds a sense of purpose spending his time helping wherever he is needed.

Upper Room is more than just a place to spend an hour on Sunday mornings, to its members, it their community. Many members are there daily, considering the church to be their family. The pastor and his family are all but treated like royalty. In fact, the pastor's wife is referred to as 'the first lady.'

The "Church Mothers" are the older ladies who have been involved with the church for as long as anyone can remember. They basically devote their lives to taking care of church business; running bake sale etc, praying daily for the members in need and gossiping about members - of course they don't consider it gossip, they think of it as sharing concerns and looking for opportunities to pray for others. Nonetheless, it's gossip.

The book opens following Nadia though the rough months right after her mother dies when she forms bonds that will stay with her for the rest of her life and makes a mistake that will also follow her through her life.

A lot of very 'real life' drama ensures making it hard to put the book down and hard not to take sides and pick favorites.

## WHAT I LOVED:

I really loved the characters. They were very human and flawed. None were bad but they all made their share of mistakes.

The "Church Mothers" were so real to me and probably anyone who grew up entrenched in a church community. They are basically well meaning ladies who set the standards for what is considered acceptable church behavior, church attire and church etiquette. Every Sunday morning across the US, mothers are straightening hair bows, combining down cow licks and reminding children to mind their P;s and Q's, all n an effort to get a nod of approval from these ladies.

The story line was relevant, interesting and sucked me right in. It was hard to put it down.

I both loved and hated that the ending didn't tie things up in an easy to swallow little package.

# WHAT I DIDN'T LOVE

There wasn't a lot to not love. I really don't enjoy books where the story line seems out line with reality and where characters do things that seem unbelievable. This book felt very authentic. I guess if I had to complain, it was a little short.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

So good!

By Leesa Cross-Smith

Another one of those books where I've marked so many little things I love so much & keeping them to myself bc I'm not ready to share them yet. I loved reading this and that sounds simple but hear me out...I love reading every word. I didn't skim or gloss over anything. I love that it's not even 300 pages long and I love that it's quiet. This goes on the (pretty) short list of books that are hyped and marketed a lot/everywhere and legit worthy of all the praise, IMO. (Bc WOW ppl love to say EVERY BOOK EVER IS GOOD/DAZZLING but I mean obvi only some of them are. This one is.)

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