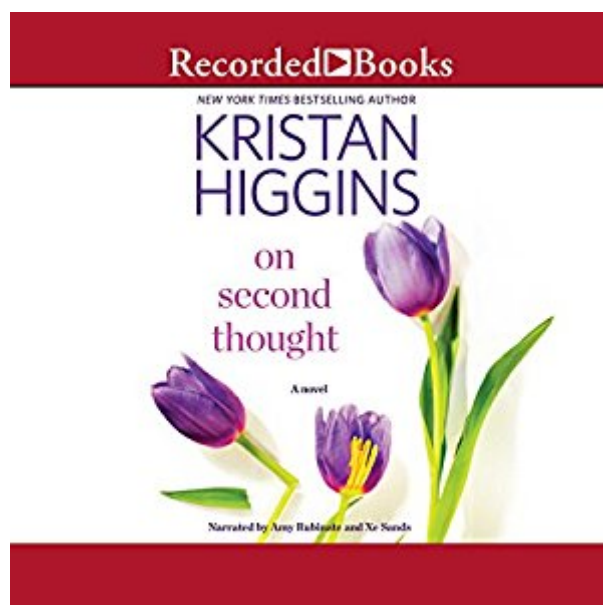


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On Second Thought



Synopsis

Following in the footsteps of her critically acclaimed novel *If You Only Knew*, best-selling author Kristan Higgins returns with a pitch-perfect look at the affection - and the acrimony - that binds sisters together. Ainsley O'Leary is so ready to get married - she's even found the engagement ring her boyfriend has stashed away. What she doesn't anticipate is for Eric to blindside her with a tactless breakup he chronicles in a blog - which (of course) goes viral. Devastated and humiliated, Ainsley turns to her half sister, Kate, who's already struggling after the sudden loss of her new husband. Kate has always been so poised, so self-assured, but Nathan's death shatters everything she thought she knew - including her husband - and sometimes the people who step up aren't the ones you expect. With seven years and a murky blended family dynamic between them, Ainsley and Kate have never been overly close, but their shared sorrow dovetails their faltering worlds into one. Despite the lifetime of history between them, the sisters must learn to put their differences aside and open their hearts to the inevitable imperfection of family - and the possibility of one day finding love again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I started reading this on the fortieth anniversary of my husband's death and just finished a while ago. At first I was somewhat put off by the beginning of Kate's story in the first chapter. However, knowing my Kristan wouldn't suddenly write something that would let me down (unless she was truly taken over by aliens) I persevered. Please believe me when I say this is one of Kristan's finest and

most mature books and you will love it. Kate and her sister Ainsley's stories will take you through all the emotions, including plenty of LOLs. It's not a book for sissies. I'll be 70 in a couple of months and loved the stories of women who lost and then won in the world of love at about the age that I did not. I never found my "second thought" but it was nice to read about two women who did. Thanks, Kristan. You made me smile, again.

~~~~~ On Second Thought is a standalone, women's fiction novel written by the fabulous Kristan Higgins. In my opinion, this would be an ideal read after experiencing the perfection that is *If You Only Knew* ~~~~~ at least this is the order I followed due to publication dates and the fact that we get a few cameos from the former's MC's. Yay!!! But other than that, *On Second Thought* stands on it's own and it's just as good (well a close second place at least). It features alternating POV's from two half-sisters who are both facing individual heartbreaks. Their grief is real! ...and one thing I loved about these parallel portrayals is that Ms. Higgins shows that loss is loss whether the person you're mourning is still alive or gone. The grief, confusion, and anger (and all the underlying stuff) are the same and all are valid. Similar in style to *If You Only Knew*, Ms. Higgins takes these heavy emotions and incorporates hilarity, family issues, romance, a villainous "other woman", and another mysterious hero. This familiar setup is in no way repetitive or distracting, but again shows that Ms. Higgins wins at her storytelling capabilities. It's got laugh-out-loud scenes, a memorable man-hungry grandma, an eye-rolling narcissistic ex, some super sweet moments, sexy times, and soul-splitting heartbreak. Without the dark, we'd never see the stars, right? Check it out. My favorite quote: "Sometimes, a smile was the bravest act of all."

As usual, Kristan Higgins has crafted a wonderful story full of complex and interesting characters. Kate, Nathan, Ainsley, Candy, Jonathan, Eric, and Daniel the hot firefighter made for a wonderful cast of characters. There are others in this story who added so much to the story, too, but the aforementioned were my favorites. There is humor, sadness, and romance of course. Most of all this novel was full of life. When you pick up a Kristan Higgins book, you know you will find a story you will love and characters you will want to read more about. *ON SECOND THOUGHT* is a book everyone should read. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

I think by far this has been my most favorite book from Kristan Higgins. I could not put it down or want to. It was so beautifully written. Kate thought she had the perfect life until she needed that

second glass of wine. Everything changed after that. Her husband of 4 months was dead. She thought she had a great life, finally after being single for so long. The two of them were trying to have a baby. But after Kate's husband's death, she finds out things about Nathan that she didn't want to find out and some things she did. While Kate is grieving, her sister Ainsley moves in with her, and not by her choice mind you. Ainsley's boyfriend of 11 years decides he needs to find himself in Alaska and that she is holding him back. Ainsley realizes what everyone else has seen in her ex boyfriend that he is self-centered and wants her to do his bidding. Can Kate find love, family, and peace after Nathan's untimely death? Can Ainsley move on from her ex and find love with that special someone? I really, really enjoyed this book. It is by far one of the best of this year!! You laugh, you cry, you want to hit some of the characters, but in the end it all seems to work itself out.

I'd never read this author before, but this was a Kindle deal and I thought it sounded good. I really enjoyed it and I will definitely read more from this author. Poor Kate finds love at age 39, she and her husband are trying hard to have a baby, then he's dead in a freak accident only a few months after their wedding. Kate's story was heartbreaking, but interspersed with some comedic moments too (I especially enjoyed her trying to figure out the massive house that Nathan built). She and her half-sister Ainsley, never close, become very close as the book progresses, and seeing their relationship grow was one of my favorite parts of the book. Ainsley's chapters were a little less tragic, but still pulled at the heartstrings. Her douche-bro boyfriend provided lots of funny moments, although Gram-Gram takes the cake for comic relief. I loved Ainsley's huge heart and enthusiasm, and her gradual relationship with Jonathon was completely charming.

I am a Kristan Higgins fan. I anxiously wait for each new book and usually purchase it on its release date. While *On Second Thought* is up to her usual high standards, but I'm just not a fan of the new alternating points of view style some authors seem to be gravitating toward. The character development is good, the plot includes complex family relationships and real-world female body image issues, so I think most of Ms. Higgins' fans will be satisfied. I just yearn for the omniscient point of view of old.

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