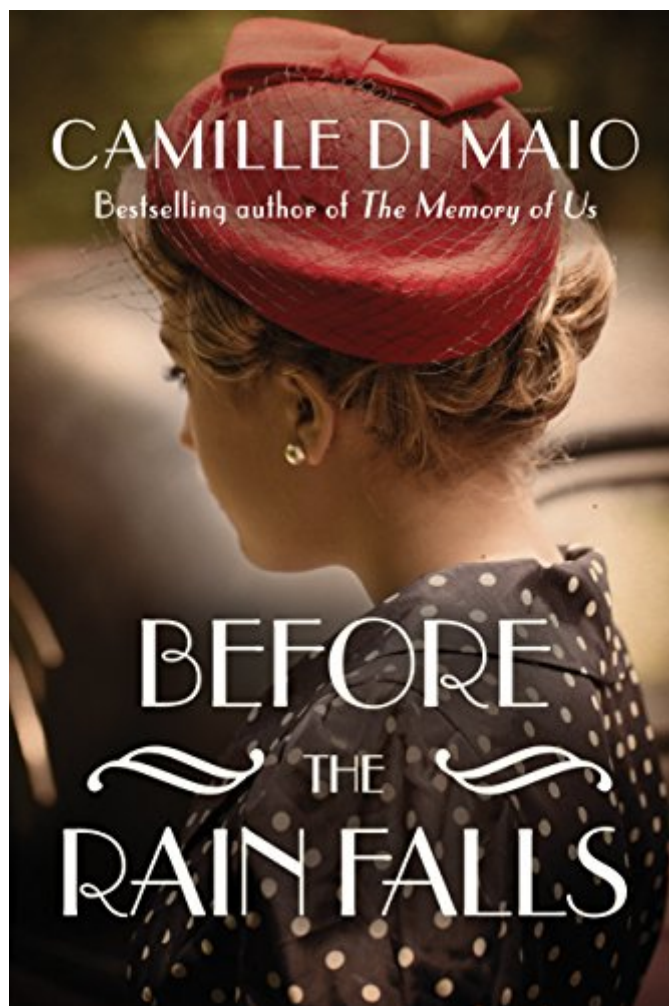


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Before The Rain Falls: A Novel



Synopsis

After serving seventy years in prison for the murder of her sister, Eula, Della Lee has finally returned home to the Texas town of Puerto Pesar. She's free from confinement and ready to tell her secrets before it's too late. She finds a willing audience in journalist Mick Anders, who is reeling after his suspension from a Boston newspaper and in town, reluctantly, to investigate a mysterious portrait of Eula that reportedly sheds tears. He crosses paths with Dr. Paloma Vega, who's visiting Puerto Pesar with her own mission: to take care of her ailing grandmother and to rescue her rebellious younger sister before something terrible happens. Paloma and Mick have their reasons to be in the hot, parched border town whose name translates as "Port of Regret." But they don't anticipate how their lives will be changed forever. Moving and engrossing, this dual story alternates between Della's dark ordeals of the 1940s and Paloma and Mick's present-day search for answers about roots, family, love, and what is truly important in life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Before the Rain Falls was such a fun read because it was very different than any other book I have read lately. As the book opens Della Lee is returning home to Puerto Pesar, a small Texas town near the Mexican border. At the same time, two other individuals converge on Puerto Pesar, Mike Anders, a struggling journalist hoping to pursue a career-reviving story, and Dr. Paloma Vega, a former resident of the town returning for a short stint to care for her grandmother and sister. The three cross paths and help each other resolve family issues and learn about love, loss and pursuing their own dreams. I truly enjoyed reading about the relationships they developed with each other. DiMaio also addresses how faith can sometimes shape people, not always for the better which was a subject that made me think long after I finished reading this book. The story is told in a dual timeline format, Della Lee's story from the 1940s, and the present day Puerto Pesar. My favorite part of the novel bizarrely enough was the section related to Della Lee's prison stint. The Women's Prison in which Della Lee was incarcerated participated in the Huntsville rodeo which I found truly fascinating. The prison also had a singing group that was broadcast weekly on the radio for years. In addition to those facts, the prison hierarchy and the details regarding just surviving in a women's prison completely intrigued me. Even though I have lived in Texas for a long time, I have not spent any time in South Texas. Before the Rain Falls makes the area sound pretty desolate, Puerto Pesar means "Port of Regret", which made me struggle with the ending a bit. However, as I continue to read and review I realize that I need to try and avoid placing my preferences onto characters and determine instead if I feel that that character would truly make that choice. While I am not totally sure that would be the case, it is much more likely than if I were the one choosing. That was my only quibble with the book, and it was a small one. I definitely recommend Before the Rain Falls. Thanks to NetGalley and Lake Union for the chance to read this ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Before the Rain Falls Enjoyed the book immensely, although I found it quite amazing that anyone could be imprisoned for 70 years. Eula served this long sentence to protect her sister whom Eula confessed to killing. The hardships endured in prison are astonishing. The author depicts the hardships and suffering of inmates in the Texas prison very realistically. I always enjoy books which have, if not a happy ending, then a satisfying ending which this novel has.

I really enjoyed this book. The characters were people you couldn't help liking, and I liked the way

the author was able to fully develop a story spanning so many decades and generations in a family. It had a wonderful ending. I do not enjoy explicitly crude, sexual, or violent books that depict the worst in human nature. Too much of that in today's culture. Di Maio is talented enough that she doesn't need that sort of "shock" appeal to lure readers. This is simply an excellent read with an uplifting story line. I highly recommend it for those who enjoy historical fiction at its best.

The mystery of how someone who loves so much could hurt the ones she loves 're most! How guilt can change not only your life but the lives of those who surround you. Remorse can create a crater in your heart that may never be filled but life is full of surprises.

I'm not good at writing these. That being said I enjoyed this book. It had me from the very beginning. Loved Della Lee as the 90 year old just released from prison. She was spicy and had spunk. I was surprised and glad with the ending.

Loved the book, very moving and emotional story but the reader really needs to know how to pronounce simple words: Respite - is NOT re-spite Magna cum 'laude' is not 'loud' And, street food in New York, really? Anyone paid to read a book should know a Greek Gyro is not pronounced GIRO, like a gyroscope! Those were surprising and distracting.

Very interesting. Well written, good read!

A thoroughly enjoyable story.

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