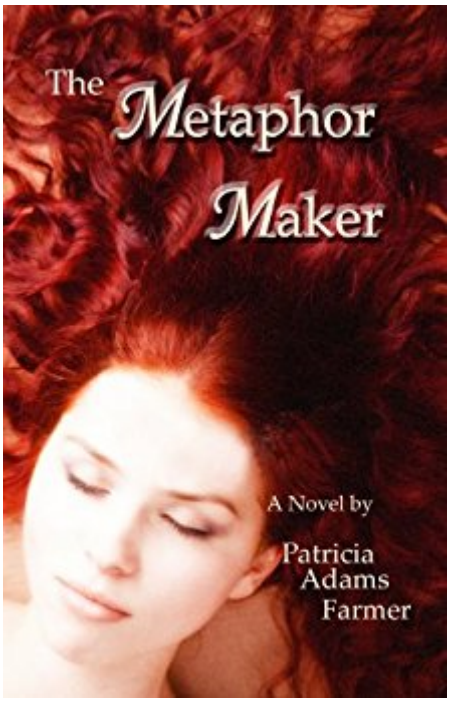
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The Metaphor Maker



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Synopsis

Spring 1968. Madeline Prescott, grieved by the loss of her brother in Vietnam, embarks on a quest for Ã¢â ¬Å“a metaphor to live by.Ã¢â ¬Â• Under the wing of Eve van Gelder, proprietor of Van GelderÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Tea and Books, she finds herself in a world of tea-drinking thinkers, poets, and quirky counter-cultural characters. Unnerved by the possibility that her brotherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s death was not as it was officially recorded, she faces a stone wall of silence that mirrors her writing block as a poet. Just as she begins to discover metaphors of healing, she is hit by another shocking loss, one which threatens all hope in the world. Against the backdrop of the cultural upheavals of 1968, Madeline falls in love, not only with her future husband, but also with a radically fresh way of re-imagining God in a world of war and suffering.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An interest in Process Theology is how I discovered this book. The writing is what had me up till 4 am reading half the book before setting it down. I finished it the next day.The book is set in the Spring of 1968, with the main character, Madeline Prescott, having graduated from U.C. Berkeley.

An anti-war protester oÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â n a quest for meaning, as the book begins with her at her parent’s home in conservative Orange County after her brother is killed in the Vietnam war. The characters are not only fully fleshed out, they come alive on the page as does the landscape and characters of Laguna Beach and Southern California. The story takes us from the cultural divide of the 60s, through Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy’s assassinations as "Maddy" grieves and finds hope in ideals.I was only 8 years old in 1968, but this book transported me to that time and allowed me to experience from the eyes of a young twenty-something. I cry very easily, but the tears this book evoked were deeper than I had experienced in a long time. Hours after finishing the book, I feel the sadness, hope and longing the author put into this work.I gave it 4 stars instead of 5 for just a couple reasons... 1) while it’s a wonderful novel, it’s also a bit of a primer on Process Theology, something of a spiritual book and while I find that subject intriguing, I’m not sure all readers will. 2) I understand that the book is set in the late 60s which might explain it... but the book is heavily heteronormative with only 1 "queer" character who appears several times in the book, but is the least developed character in it...

This book satisfied my craving for both leisure and inspirational reading; I laughed, cried, cringed and contemplated about the meaning of life. But most importantly, this book painted a vivid picture of hope and it’s intimate relationship with humanity. With the plot set in the 1960’s, Patricia Adams Farmer artistically brought history to life and allowed me to deeply empathize with and befriend the characters. I absolutely adored them and I am delighted that she gave each role enough "book time exposure" to bond with the readers. One thing I am quite fond of was how the positive traits were evenly distributed among the major characters. In other words, there was no "superhuman" that possessed all the wisdom you needed. All the characters seemed to have experienced perennial ups and downs in life throughout the book, a journey that a reader might deem relatable. This book contains numerous lessons that I found personally enriching. There is nothing too preachy, just practical guidance and metaphors that have the capacity to uplift the spirit and provoke positive change. I cannot recall how many times I had to pause from reading and simply digest the beautiful words. This story showed me how freely we could learn from each other as well as how much wisdom we can impart. My favorite part in this novel was when the characters sporadically gathered in the bookshop. There is a clear sense of belongingness that permeates their environment. Even though the characters came from different backgrounds, they respected each other and welcomed the possibility of gaining new insights about life from a different perspective. In this book, Patricia Adams Farmer described that our spiritual, religious or philosophical views does not necessarily

have to match other people's point by point in order to have a peaceful and vibrant fellowship. The only criteria needed were passion for social justice and hope in the goodness of humanity. This is a concept that I truly wish the larger society would come to embody.I read other reviews about The Metaphor Maker and I agree that the story caters to a wide range of audience. From Madeleine's fresh-off-from-college character to the ever-jovial Mr. Larsen, one can either identify closely with a specific character or pick bits and pieces from everyone's colorful life. This novel is reader-friendly and is ideal for someone who is interested in learning more about progressive theology. It is a perfect book for an explorer like me.

Praise and puffery can be produced with ease by a reviewer. Admiration for the elegant literary style and most certainly praise for tackling a pivotal time in America are owed to Patricia Adams Farmer. But something else happened to me while reading THE METAPHOR MAKER--a re-awakening of emotions I thought were deeply buried. Let me explain.Madeline Prescott struggled during the '60s, a time while I was a physician in the Central Intelligence Agency stationed in Athens, Greece. The horrors faced by Madeline--the assassinations, an immoral war in Viet Nam and the warping of democracy in our country--were doubly magnified for me simply because I did not have the support that Madeline had during this upheaval--no discussion groups or politically sympathetic friends.THE METAPHOR MAKER re-awakened in me the deep despair of those times. Had Patricia Adams Farmer's book been with me then, the climb out of the abyss would have been easier. Madeline's strength and persistence in seeking answers to what seemed unanswerable problems is more than an inspiration to those of us who can't seem to relax and let the world go by. Her book is the perfect metaphor: a prism which gives us a spectrum of hope.Patrick Clement, MDPhysician in the Central Intelligence Agency, 1965-1970Political Activist who proudly stood with Martin Luther King, Jr. in August, 1963, and attempted , with Norman Mailer and others, to levitate the Pentagon

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