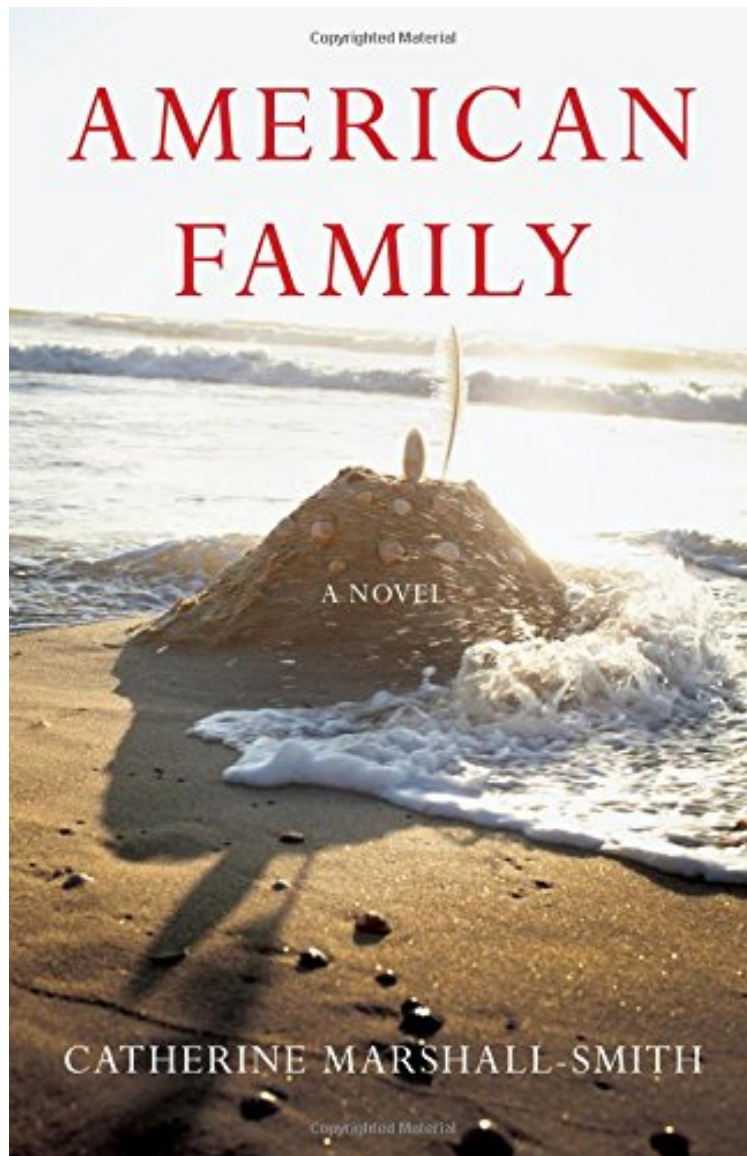


(Download) American Family: A Novel

American Family: A Novel

Catherine Marshall-Smith

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



#1547136 in Books 2017-06-13 Original language: English 8.50 x 1.00 x 5.40l, #File Name: 1631521632360 pages | File size: 54.Mb

Catherine Marshall-Smith : American Family: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Family: A Novel:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A riveting read! By Dori Jones Yang In this absorbing novel, Catherine Marshall-Smith creates a captivating story of a modern American family in crisis. With lively dialogue and fast-moving scenes, she brings to life a set of richly-drawn, multi-dimensional characters that you will come to love:

ten-year-old Brady, her long-lost dad, and his gay partner. As her loving grandparents fight to get her back, Brady faces some increasingly edgy scenes that ratchet up the tension until the dramatic climax. What I love about this book is the way it surprises you. Just as you think it will fall into clichés or stereotypes, you are zipping through a scene you didn't expect. The characters remain unique individuals, with their own quirks, and they act in ways that seem right to them. Without scorn for anyone's religion, the author deftly deals with profound differences that are tearing this family in two and brings us masterfully to a surprise ending.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Book Clubbers: A Terrific Book for Discussion By HVW Reminiscent of "House of Sand and Fog," Marshall-Smith's "American Family" artistically offers up an emotionally-wrenching family tug-of-war with no villains and no heroes, no perfect right and wrong outcomes. Just when you thought you knew your own heart and who to root for in the custody battle for a precocious yet vulnerable young girl, the rug is whipped out from under you. Marshall-Smith is a talented storyteller with a flair for the turn of a phrase. I thought so highly of this book, I gifted it to my two sisters!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. No Heroes or Villains but Thoroughly Engaging Characters! By Debora Wohlford Steininger The characters in Catherine Marshall-Smith's AMERICAN FAMILY intrigue and engage the reader from the first page, and don't let go until the satisfying ending. None are perfect, none tragically flawed, all portrayed as lovable, quirky, real people, and I found myself pulling for all of them!

Richard and Michael, both three years sober, have just decided to celebrate their love by moving in together when Richard driven by the desire to do the right thing for his ten-year-old daughter, Brady, whom he has never met impulsively calls his former father-in-law to connect with her. With that phone call, he jeopardizes the one good thing he has his relationship with Michael and also threatens the world of the fundamentalist Christian grandparents who love Brady and see her as payback from God for the alcohol-related death of her mother. Unable to reach an agreement, the two parties hire lawyers who have agendas far beyond the interests of the families and Brady is initially trusted into Richard and Michael's care. But when the judge learns that the young girl was present when a questionable act took place while in their custody, she returns Brady to her grandparents. Ultimately, it's not until further tragedy strikes that both families are finally motivated to actually act in the best interests of the child.

"A nuanced portrait of what it means to be a family, with a bit of melodrama but plenty of heart." Kirkus s "A poignant literary pageant of custody battles, alcoholism, religious restraint and family turmoil, this tremendously moving read will leave you in bouts of feels all summer long." Redbook "An emotionally gripping read that explores the deepest of cracks in a dysfunctional family, this poignant book belongs in the hands of every parent this summer." Working Mother "This emotionally gripping tale about a gay man who must battle his way to sobriety and convince his ex father-in-law he is worthy of a relationship with his 10-year-old daughter will leave every dad moved. If you want your gift to finally induce your dad to weep in your presence, this might be your chance." Popsugar "When Richard confronts his daughters fundamentalist Christian grandparents for a second chance at fatherhood, the most emotionally harrowing and heavy family drama of 2017 unfolds. Be sure you pack tissues in the glove compartment." Brit+Co "A heartbreaking and emotionally riveting reading experience that reminds readers that most every American family has its dysfunctional ghosts. This explosive novel will add drama to your summer from Page 1." SheKnows About the Author Catherine Marshall-Smith teaches writing and history to 6th graders, runs long distance, is married to the love of her life, mother to three adult children, has two grand dogs and one dachshund with a very straight nose. In the process of writing American Family, she observed in Family Court, interviewed lawyers and a judge and read the Supreme Court ruling on grandparents rights with a lawyer. She has her bachelors degree in English from University of California at Berkeley and earned a Creative Writing Certificate from the Writing Program at UCLA where she was short listed for the James Kirkwood Award for Fiction 2012.