

FINDING A GREAT BOOK IS EASY. FINDING YOURSELF IS A DIFFERENT STORY...



Dear Reader,

I spent my childhood curled up on the sofa or under the covers at night with a flashlight, lost in books. *Little Women*, *Treasure Island*, *The Lion*, *The Witch and the Wardrobe*—the classics of children's literature were more real to me than my regular life, worlds of imagination that I, a shy, quiet child, could escape to. The characters were my friends, their adventures my own. As I grew, my passionate relationship with books continued. I fell in love with every hero, dreaming of the day I would one day write my own novel to add to the canon I loved so much.

The Little Clan is the story of Ava Gallanter, a young librarian whose whole understanding of life comes from books. She longs to start a literary salon to find other bookworms like herself and to live out the classic novels she loves so much. As she teams up with her glamorous, scheming best friend Stephanie and their salon takes an unexpected turn, Ava must grow up and learn the difference between her beloved fiction and the real world.

I wrote this novel as a celebration of the classic works of literature that I love so much and to gently interrogate this canon as a young woman, a writer, and a feminist. I hope it finds others with whom I share this passion for books, a fellowship, a community of readers, my own little clan.

Sincerely,

Iris Martin Cohen