

The Good Daughters

"Joyce Maynard has outdone herself in this beautifully written story you'll find hard to put down and impossible to forget." —ELIZABETH BERG, author of *The Last Time I Saw You*

A NOVEL

the good daughters

AUTHOR OF *LABOR DAY*

JOYCE MAYNARD



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The bestselling author of *Labor Day* returns with a spellbinding novel about friendship, family secrets, and the strange twists of fate that shape our lives. *The Good Daughters* follows the lives of two women born on the same day in the same small New Hampshire hospital, into families that could hardly have been less alike. Ruth Plank is an artist and a romantic with a rich, passionate, imaginative life. The last of five girls born to a gentle, caring farmer and his stolid wife, she yearns to soar beyond the confines of the land that has been her family's birthright for generations. Dana Dickerson is a scientist and realist whose faith is firmly planted in the natural world. Raised by a pair of capricious drifters who waste their lives on failed dreams, she longs for stability and rootedness. Different in nearly every way, Ruth and Dana share a need to make sense of who they are and to find their places in a world in which neither has ever truly felt she belonged. They also share a love for Dana's wild and beautiful older brother, Ray, who will leave an indelible mark on both their hearts. Told in the alternating voices of Ruth and Dana, *The Good Daughters* follows these "birthday sisters" as they make their way from the 1950s to the present. Master storyteller Joyce Maynard chronicles the unlikely ways the two women's lives parallel and intersect—from childhood and adolescence to first loves, first sex, marriage, and parenthood; from the deaths of parents to divorce, the loss of home, and the loss of a beloved partner—until past secrets and forgotten memories unexpectedly come to light, forcing them to reevaluate themselves and each other. Moving from rural New Hampshire to a remote island in British Columbia to the '70s Boston art-school scene, *The Good Daughters* is an unforgettable story about the ties of home and family, the devastating force of love, the healing power of forgiveness, and the desire to know who we are.

作者介绍:

目录:

[The Good Daughters 下载链接1](#)

标签

评论

[The Good Daughters 下载链接1](#)

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