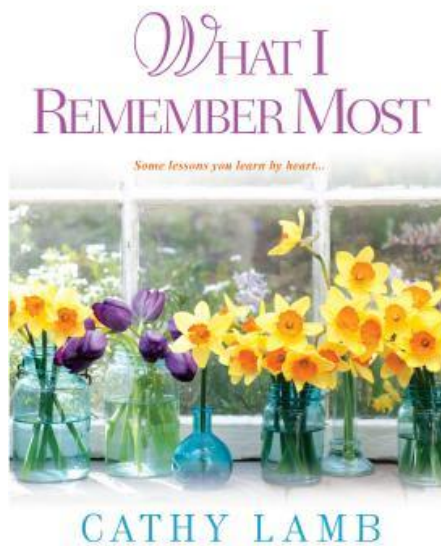




What I Remember Most

Cathy Lamb

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What I Remember Most Cathy Lamb

In a new novel rich in grace, warmth, and courage, acclaimed author Cathy Lamb tells of one woman's journey of reinvention in the wake of deep betrayal.

Grenadine Scotch Wild has only vague memories of the parents she last saw when she was six years old. But she's never forgotten their final, panicked words to her, urging Grenadine to run. The mystery of their disappearance is just one more frayed strand in a life that has lately begun to unravel completely. One year into her rocky marriage to Covey, a well known investor, he's arrested for fraud and embezzlement. And Grenadine, now a successful collage artist and painter, is facing jail time despite her innocence.

With Covey refusing to exonerate her unless she comes back to him, Grenadine once again takes the advice given to her so long ago: she runs. Hiding out in a mountain town in central Oregon until the trial, she finds work as a bartender and as assistant to a furniture-maker who is busy rebuilding his own life. But even far from everything she knew, Grenadine is granted a rare chance, as potentially liberating as it is terrifying--to face down her past, her fears, and live a life as beautiful and colorful as one of her paintings. . .

Outstanding Praise For Cathy Lamb And Her Novels

If You Could See What I See

"Lamb's story is earnest, heartwarming and, at times, heartbreaking." --*RT Book Reviews*

The First Day Of The Rest Of My Life

"The blending of three or more generations and the secrets they harbor keeps this story moving briskly, culminating in a satisfying ending that makes us believe that despite heartache and angst, there can be such a thing as happily ever after." --*New York Journal of Books*

Such A Pretty Face

"Stevie's a winning heroine." --*Publishers Weekly*

Henry's Sisters

An Indie Next List Notable Book

"A story of strength and reconciliation and change." --*The Sunday Oregonian*

"If you loved *Terms of Endearment*, the *Ya Ya Sisterhood*, and *Steel Magnolias*, you will love *Henry's Sisters*. Cathy Lamb just keeps getting better and better." --*The Three Tomatoes Book Club*

The Last Time I Was Me

"Charming." --*Publishers Weekly*

Julia's Chocolates

"*Julia's Chocolates* is wise, tender, and very funny. In Julia Bennett, Cathy Lamb has created a deeply wonderful character, brave and true. I loved this beguiling novel about love, friendship and the enchantment of really good chocolate." --Luanne Rice, *New York Times* bestselling author

What I Remember Most Details

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Author : Cathy Lamb

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From Reader Review What I Remember Most for online ebook

Angela Miller says

I'm actually giving up on reading this book. The cover, the synopsis, and yes, all the great reviews left me completely intrigued. But only 10% into the book, I had to keep checking to be sure I was reading the right book. It almost seems like a female western, with truly unbelievable dialogue. I'm sure it gets better, but honestly, the three scenes of action I have read so far are totally ridiculous. I went in expecting an uplifting story of female courage and really feel like I've stumbled into a bad tv series. I agree with one reviewer who said that some of the passages of writing were great, thus the two stars. There was just no consistency, and again, the story was just getting to be ridiculous. No thank you.

JudiAnne says

I liked this book. The plot was funny and gruesome, dark and light and an interesting story of a young women trying to survive. It was entertaining especially the first half but later it turned repetitious and I was ready for it to end.

Maggie61 says

This is the first of Cathy Lamb's books that I have read and I really enjoyed it. Grenadine was a very strong woman who had a terrible heartbreaking childhood and was now facing a prison term for a multiple of charges, none of which she was guilty of.

She leaves town while awaiting trial and finds herself in a small town where she keeps her past a secret. She slowly becomes comfortable with the new life she has and the many friends she makes including her boss Kade, who she'd like to be more than a friend. She's always had her art in her life as her comfort, saying things she can't and she gets back into it as she becomes a part of this town. But the disappearance of her parents and her shattered childhood still haunt her. And her trial date is becoming closer with her nasty almost ex husband trying to shift all the blame to her, and begging her to come home. And there's the complication of Rozlyn and Cleo.

For the most part I really enjoyed this book. However I didn't find the sections with Danny/Butch to fit. They seemed to come out of nowhere occasionally and seemed unnecessary and not fitting with the rest of the book. I think the book would have been fine without all those sections in and not be taking anything away from the book. Also, at times I found the dialogue to be just weird and unnatural. Nonetheless I did really enjoy it and will be looking to read more books by this author.

Shari says

The ratings for this book are high, so I expected A LOT. Let me just be clear: If you put five stars in a book, you are basically saying that it is one of the best books of all time. Think "Hunger Games."

This book started out well, and then it just rambled on and on and on.

There needs to be action in a book. Let me explain that again: There needs to be actual action.

My other problem with this book is it was just so over-the-top in regards to how much the mc suffered. I mean, seriously. Her life was HORRIBLE.

It reminded me of another book I read last summer where it was pretty much unbelievable in that aspect.

Another thing was the constant referring to her female body part as "The big V." C'mon! I'm 38 years old. The mc is supposed to be 38 years old. I'm supposed to believe that after surviving serial killers and foster care horror straight out of Stephen King that she still doesn't have the fortitude to refer to her vagina as a vagina.

I guess I'm just disappointed because this book started out so strong, and I really do like the main character. However, I had to force myself through the second half of the book.

Jenny Belk says

This was my first book by Cathy Lamb. This book impressed me so much because she tells this hard-to-believe story about a young girl, Grenadine, and how she suffered unbelievable loss, abuse, displacement and suffering, but managed at a very young age to survive at all costs. As she ages she takes you on a roller coaster ride with her. The book is full of amusing, endearing characters. Amidst all her troubles, she retains and nurtures her love of crafts and art. She meets and marries a wealthy investor and is betrayed by him and flees his obsessive, damaging behavior. Cathy's writing is beautifully descriptive and lyrical.

Will Grenadine ever have her happily ever after, and be able to overcome her past traumas and live a happy life.

I loved this book so much. It's full of humor and also incredible sadness. I highly recommend you read it. You won't be a bit disappointed.

Maryellen says

"Run, Grenadine, run!"

When Grenadine Scotch Wild was six years old, those were the last words she heard from her parents. Grenadine was found running along Route 43 in Lincoln County, Oregon. She was rescued but not without putting up a fight. She was hysterical. She was unable to speak to authorities for days and when she did, all she was able to tell them was that her parents were Freedom and Bear Wild and that there was another man there that night.

Grenadine was a beautiful child with long red hair and big green eyes who excels in art and uses that gift to express herself. In other fields of study (aside from PE~~the girl is fast!) she struggles. She was a good kid whose situation became terrible. There would be years of abuse by those very people who were supposed to be looking out for her in the foster care system. And then when Grenadine would finally feel safe, the system would again fail her and she'd be displaced. Her years in foster care are a nightmare until she is placed with Mr. Sean Lee and his sister, Beatrice. It is during that time that Grenadine will choose to be called Dina Wild.

Dina Wild made a mistake. She married Covey Hamilton. He's a snake. He bamboozled his clients out of

millions of dollars in investment schemes and he's done everything possible to implicate Dina in his crime. Dina is arrested. She's jailed. Solitary confinement is hard. Finally Dina is released pending trial and she does what her parents told her to do all those years ago, she runs. With just over \$500 to her name, she finds herself in a small mountain town in the middle of Oregon. She can't afford a room so she sleeps in her car and pees in a cup. After finally finding work at a local bar, Dina goes back to being called Grenadine to try to hide her arrest. It is during this time that Grenadine's life will finally become her own.

Without a doubt, this is Cathy Lamb at her finest. She has always given us the most amazing characters and Grenadine Scotch Wild has now become my absolute favorite. And believe me, it was hard to surpass Stevie from **SUCH A PRETTY FACE**, Jeanne from **THE LAST TIME I WAS ME** and Julia from **JULIA'S CHOCOLATES**. But she did it, Cathy borne a character that I fell in love with even more. Grenadine is a strong girl who refuses to be broken. And she becomes an even stronger woman who will fight for her freedom and fight harder for her friends. Oh and her friends~~they are fabulous! Rozlyn the menopausal Mother of Cleo; Eudora who may or may not have been a spy before working for Kade; Kade who may or may not have a criminal record and wears sexy black t-shirts over his bulging muscles; and the entire Hutchinson Family who taught Grenadine to spit, shoot and swear!

The artwork that the character of Grenadine creates is described in amazing detail by this unique author. What I really wish is that the amazing collages and furniture that are imagined in this book would be brought to life. In my mind's eye, these works of art are masterpieces. That is some brilliant writing to be able to have a reader conjure up such vivid imagery. Brilliant.

At nearly 500 pages, you'll find that you'll wish for 500 more. As with all of Ms. Lamb's works you'll laugh (hard), you'll cheer for your womanhood, you'll curse the system, you'll have lusty thoughts of sexy men, and you'll cry (hard). Congratulations Ms. Lamb.

☆☆☆☆☆ (more if they'd let me)

An advance copy of this book was provided to me for review but I want an original so I ordered a copy of the finished product.

Taryn says

Inspid. Unbelievable. Juvenile. I only finished this book because I wanted to know what happened to the parents. Holy hell, I hated this book!

Nancy Narma says

“Fry Me a Pig! Cathy’s Outdone Herself Again!”

Talented Artist and Collagist, Dina Wild had only been married a little over a year to well-known financial investor Covey Hamilton, when her life began to unravel again. Her possessive, greedy husband’s unscrupulous dealings had been discovered and, although Dina had no knowledge of his underhanded practices, she was charged with theft, fraud, embezzlement, and money laundering and thrown in jail. When released, bruised, angry and frightened, she followed a voice she remembered from her childhood—“Run Grenadine, run!” She left Covey and fled Portland, leaving her uncomfortable, overblown lifestyle behind.

With very limited funds, she settled in a town in Southern Oregon, Western-themed Pineridge. Knowing her money wouldn't stretch very far, Dina, now known as Grenady, lived in her car while trying to find a job so she could survive. The auburn-haired, determined beauty found the chances slim until Tildy Green, gruff, but good hearted owner of "The Spirited Owl" Bar/Restaurant hired her as a bartender. The pay plus kindness kept her fed and a bit more optimistic—but it also gave her time for old fears and questions from the past to rear their ugly heads. How would she ever be able to get out of her cramped auto abode and afford an apartment on her small wage and tips? Grenady decided to look for a second job. But, who would hire someone with a supposed criminal record? Taking a chance, she applied for a receptionist position at "Hendrick's Furniture", owned by a scarred "Mountain of a man", Kade Hendricks, who may have some secrets of his own up his sleeve. Grenady was taken, being an artist herself, by the talented wood carvings on the Hendrick's furniture line and hoped she would be given a chance at the position and, perhaps grow, trust, and re-invent herself. Little did Grenady know the prospects this opportunity could afford her. The unforgettable story of 6 yr. old Grenadine Scotch Wild, starting with her discovery by a passing trucker in 1982 and progressing through her trials, tribulations, and foster home nightmares into her teens and beyond is one you will not soon forget. The fear, mistrust, anger, mistreatment and longing for love and security imprint the pages as clearly as someone leaving their fingerprints on glass. Your heart will ache—You'll gasp, cry, cheer, chuckle, and, as you reach the epilogue, be wishing for more. The Author has, once again, pulled us into the protagonist's world—where you feel like you know all of the characters' hearts and souls—especially Talia, Rozlyn and Cleo DeMarco, and soon-to-be everyone's favorite spy, Eudora, among many others. Bravo Ms. Lamb, You've outdone yourself once more. Be sure you put this on the very top of your "To-Be-Read List". Nancy Narma

Christie Sitterly says

This was a fantastic read with one of my most favorite main characters to date! Grenadine Scotch Wild is multifaceted. She comes from humble beginnings, a child in the foster care system at age six. She has endured torture and has flashes of memories of what happened to her biological parents. Someone from her past is also obsessing over her. The book begins with her being homeless and awaiting prosecution because her husband has implicated her in his financial schemes. She is audacious, hardworking, bluntly comical, and takes no crap from anyone! The book details her journey to making herself a member of her new community, dealing with trauma from her past and current legal issues, making quite memorable friends (I wish they were mine! You will wish they were yours!), and navigating the waters of a potential new love. You will find yourself rooting (loudly!) for her to prevail. I highly recommend this book and look forward to reading more from Cathy Lamb!

Brian Damron says

Do not waste your time with this book!

I did not enjoy this book. It was way too slow. Too many characters and too many sub-stories! Would not recommend it to anyone. I could not wait for it to be over!

?Susan? says

A good story about a girl who, because of her tragic upbringing, grows into a strong woman who makes her own future. Great character driven journey that is a nice romance with out the sappy side.

Wendy T says

I enjoyed this story. Sad at times, but a good story.

C.H. Armstrong says

There is nothing I love more than the anticipation of reading a new book by a favorite author. I mark my calendar far in advance and begin counting down the days about two weeks before launch date. The only thing that comes close to equaling that excitement is when I'm surprised with the the opportunity to review a copy in advance in the form of an Advanced Reader's Copy from the author or publisher. Recently, I had the opportunity to get my hands on an ARC of Cathy Lamb's newest novel, What I Remember Most.

As an avid reader and fan of Lamb's work, I walked into this book expecting a good read. I've read everything she's released, and so there's a reason why I always anxiously await her next book. With that said, though, I had no idea the huge treat that was in store for me. Simply stated, this book was absolutely beautiful and probably the best book Lamb has released yet. It was without any doubts one of the best books I've read so far this year.

As with many of Lamb's books, What I Remember Most is filled with a strong female leading character surrounded by a close-knit group of quirky friends. But what sets this book apart and above all others is the grit and determination of the main character, Grenadine Scotch Wild. She's a young woman who has been knocked down by life and by the system her entire life, and yet she refuses to give up. She refuses to be beaten and she refuses to accept defeat. She keeps her chin up and her head high as she plows forward through life in search of the peace and fairness she deserves. She's tender-hearted, yet tough as nails and unafraid to stand her ground against those who would take advantage of her. And through all of this, she's intensely likable and the kind of person we all wish was among our inner circle of friends. She's the kind of character that a reader falls in love with, and the one who lingers in your memory long after the last pages have been turned.

When an author starts with a character as appealing as Grenadine, she has a responsibility to that character not to drop the ball on the storyline. Luckily Cathy Lamb was up to the task and brings the reader an unforgettable story of a young orphan as she navigates through the foster care system and then, later, the real world. It's a story of love, loss, survival, determination, perseverance, friendship and new starts.

This is a book that I will be recommending to every one of my friends, and it's the first book I've ever felt compelled to tell my friends to pre-order in advance of its release date. This is a book that you won't want to wait any longer than necessary to read.

Vickie says

What I Remember Most is the first book I have read by author Cathy Lamb, and I can't wait to read more of her books. This was really a phenomenal read.

Grenadine Scotch Wild is a successful collage artist who is on the run after finding out that her husband has been arrested for fraud and embezzlement. She runs and hides out in a small Oregon town where she eventually finds a job, actually two jobs, a room to rent, and quite a few wacky friends. We get to know Grenady's back story through flashbacks and learn that her parents had been killed and there is a very creepy character who still wants to reach her. I laughed and cried with this book, and the rating is really a 4.5/5.0! I look forward to reading more by this author.

Go Cards! L1C4!!

Beth says

Grenadine Scotch Wild is a wonderful, multilayered character. Her story of courage, resilience, and oftentimes heartbreaking determination shines a bright light upon what can happen when we face tremendous adversity and refuse to give up believing in ourselves and our dreams. Cathy Lamb has crafted a tender and bighearted tale that's sure to be a hit with book clubs.

Dana says

A Sunday Morning Review for you ...just WOW!!

What I Remember Most By Cathy Lamb,

Book Description :

In a new novel rich in grace, warmth, and courage, acclaimed author Cathy Lamb tells of one woman's journey of reinvention in the wake of deep betrayal.

Grenadine Scotch Wild has only vague memories of the parents she last saw when she was six years old. But she's never forgotten their final, panicked words to her, urging Grenadine to run. The mystery of their disappearance is just one more frayed strand in a life that has lately begun to unravel completely. One year into her rocky marriage to Covey, a well known investor, he's arrested for fraud and embezzlement. And Grenadine, now a successful collage artist and painter, is facing jail time despite her innocence.

With Covey refusing to exonerate her unless she comes back to him, Grenadine once again takes the advice given to her so long ago: she runs. Hiding out in a mountain town in central Oregon until the trial, she finds work as a bartender and as assistant to a furniture-maker who is busy rebuilding his own life. But even far from everything she knew, Grenadine is granted a rare chance, as potentially liberating as it is terrifying--to face down her past, her fears, and live a life as beautiful and colorful as one of her paintings. . .

My Review:

This is without a Doubt One of Most Emotional Books I have EVER read!! EVER!! Cathy Lamb has the uncanny ability with everyone of her books to make you identify with at least one of the Characters.. In some way I was touched by many of them.. Let me say I was a Foster/Adopt home for many ,many years. So I do know BOTH sides of the this story .. Grenadine Scotch Wild is a Survivor ..Literally, The Last thing she

remembers is 'Run Grenadine Run!' and then nothing ..she is 6 yrs old and found running and bleeding by a truck driver... Freedom and Bear her parents, No where to be found. Grenadine ends up in Foster Care, and thru letters written by case workers (some great workers , some " I KNOW these kind of case workers and they should be in jail") workers.. add in tales of horrific Foster Parents that need a good whipping themselves!! (oh that part had me seeing RED!!!) and wonderful Foster Parents who without them who knows what would have Happened to Grenadine! And Grenadine makes it to adulthood and she is on the run... again.. but this time the circumstances are so different !! She married a "weasel" Covey, who seemed sooo wonderful, don't they all he did illegal things and brings Grenadine (through no knowledge of her own) into his mess... Its Chaos, she leaves him and moves to find a new life... and does she ever!! I'm not giving any spoilers but I PROMISE you will LOVE these people , you will laugh with them, cry with them and cheer them on ... and want to just be a part of their lives...You will see The inner workings of Foster Care and just how wrong it goes.. You will also see caring and Loving Social Workers and Foster Parents.. Ms. Lamb hits this nail RIGHT on the head.. You will LOVE Kade, and Tildy, Rozlyn and Eudora, Moose, and Little Cleo... and they way Ms. Lamb paints a collage of intertwining loves together to make the most colorful of Paintings!! This will go on my "Pink Ribbon Shelf" I give this Book 5 daisy crowns .. and I wrote this review thru tears.. this one was close to home!!! LOVED it!!

Kathryn says

It's not often I sit and read a 486 page book in one day. I did with this one!

What I Remember Most by Cathy Lamb was a great read. I sat and read it during the day and into the night until I had finished it. I can't remember when I did that with a book. Maybe I was in the mood for a good read and this book just slotted right in there.

It is told in the first person, so we only have Grenadine's side of the story. However Cathy Lamb also adds in reports from child welfare officers, teachers and police officers and small slots of a creepy guy's thoughts. In this way the life history of Grenadine is slowly built up. Let's just say her past is on the whole horrific. Yet what a wonderful woman has emerged.

When her creepy, slime ball husband tries to prove that Grenadine is a part of his whole investment scandal, she takes refuge in a small town in Oregon and fends for herself. There she fights her way into jobs and eventually a place to call home. She is a very hard worker and a gifted artist, it is not long before the people of the town recognise her talents and abilities.

When she takes up work at Hutchinson's Furniture she meets a whole raft of women, some providing fun and humour, others tears and sadness. Friendships and bonds form. Then there is Kade - a tough looking reformed gang leader from LA. What a group of people, and of course there is a delightful little one - Cleo who wins Grenadine's heart in unexpected ways.

This book didn't quite have the humour in it that I have met in Cathy Lamb's other books, but it did have some! I chuckled and shed tears at times. I cheered Grenadine on and was relieved when she made it through each challenge.

Love the cover and for once it fit right in to a page of the book wonderfully well. Thumbs up from me on this one.

Cindy says

This one was a joy to read. It had highs and lows. Sometimes you cry, others you rage, but you keep on reading. Can't wait for another Cathy Lamb book!

Stephanie says

Well swing me a cat, I loved this book.

Kate Moretti says

Cathy Lamb has characterization in the bag. Grenadine Scotch Wild -- have you ever heard such a fantastic character name? She's faced adversity from her traumatic childhood to her terrible marriage to a criminal and yet, she's still portrayed as a strong, flawed character with a deep arc. Lamb really shines with her dialogue: brimming with life, her characters have the quirkiest sayings and mannerisms. This was my first book by Cathy Lamb but it won't be my last.
