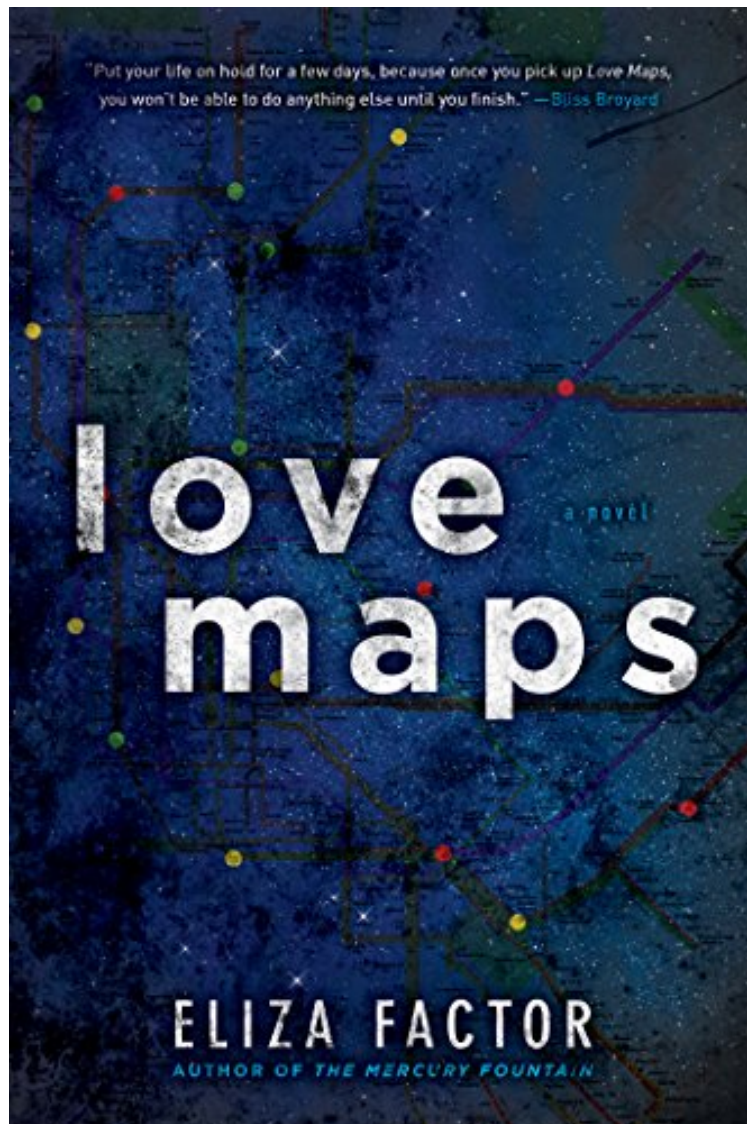


[FREE] Love Maps

Love Maps

Eliza Factor

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Eliza Factor : Love Maps before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Love Maps:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The long and winding roadBy Vox LibrisSarah has an artist's eye. An artist's heart and mind, and an artist's soul. She's sensitive and a bit insecure. She's talented, yes, but she doesn't realize how much. What she does know is that her older sister Maya has an intimidating, ceaseless talent, whether for singing or real estate. Next to her, Sarah finds herself wanting. Into their thirties, both women are single, but not flailing. Maya has earned no small amount of acclaim for her singing, and Sarah too is gaining in fame. She has

created a series of paintings called "love maps," which depict an attempt to locate different forms of love, whether for objects or people. She's selling paintings, although not enough to support herself. Maya pays Sarah a salary, employing her as an assistant of sorts. When an old family friend passes away, Maya sends Sarah to the funeral as her emissary of sorts. While there, Sarah meets Philip, and the two are immediately attracted to each other. They both live in New York, but Sarah's fears of starting something with him are allayed somewhat by there being all those people in New York. Surely she doesn't have to worry about running into him, right? Except of course they do. The book opens with Sarah having received a letter from Philip, telling her he is coming to town. Flipping back and forth in time, Eliza Factor reveals Sarah and Philip's stories, although her primary focus is on Sarah. This is a woman so overshadowed by her older sister that she does not know how to respond to love when it presents itself. Yet that artist's sensibility - the talent to create something simply because she is driven to do so - strengthens her when she needs it. Sarah allows herself to be with Philip, even if she has no idea what that means, emotionally or otherwise. Sarah makes many mistakes with Philip, each of which she recalls with pain and anger. She is about as ill-equipped to be in a relationship as someone can be, and he isn't much better. Yet together they become, and Eliza Factor gives us hope that somehow Sarah and Philip will find happiness. Except of course they don't. At least not without considerable strain. The thing about maps is that they show you where you need to go, but not how you need to get there. Sarah knows she belongs with Philip, but she has no idea how to be with him. She only has her sister for guidance, and Maya is too self-involved to help. Maya puts her own interests above all else, balking at perceived threats to her relationship with Sarah. On a map, Maya would be an undisclosed pothole. You know you will encounter one, but you have no idea how severe it will be until you happen upon it. If Philip is Sarah's destination, she will take many a detour before she gets to him. Fortunately, Eliza Factor's storytelling is interesting enough that you won't mind going along for the ride. Review copy provided from publisher in exchange for an unbiased review. Published on VoxLibris.net @ VoxLibris0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. love maps By Rebecca Sarah has not seen and rarely heard from her husband Phillip in over 7 years. On day she receives a letter from Africa from Phillip saying he wants to see her and will be showing up at the train station the next day. Alternating between 1997 prior to his arrival and the mid/late 1980's in NYC we see how Sarah and Phillip met and what drove them apart. I liked the writing and the shift in time frame that kept me turning the page. This was completely different from Factor's first novel and I am interested to see what she writes next.

"Powerfully written...Factor reveals this arresting tale through solid character development and a well-paced narrative. From its tense opening chapter to its memorable conclusion, this is a read-in-one-sitting trip."--Publishers Weekly "Compelling...a poignant picture of familial and romantic love and their complexities."--Library Journal One of The L Magazine's 50 Books You'll Want to Read This Spring and Summer "Memorable and touching...a commendable achievement that captures the interrelation of fear and love in the unbalanced reality of modern adulthood."--San Francisco Book Review "Entertaining and suspenseful."--Coal Hill Review "A quick and absorbing read that deals with love, relationships, and art and I highly recommend this brief yet intense novel."--The Book Binders' Daughter "[Factor] creates vibrant characters who struggle against love."--A New Day "Who can plot the turns and reversals of the heart? Who can follow its illogical loyalties and mysterious obsessions? Who can reconcile its competing claims from lovers and family? Eliza Factor, that's who, in this stunningly assured novel about a pair of sisters--one a successful artist, the other a famous singer--and the handsome architect who comes between them. The cover should come with a warning to put your life on hold for a few days, because once you pick it up, you won't be able to do anything else until you finish."--Bliss Broyard, author of One Drop: My Father's Hidden Life--A Story of Race and Family Secrets "Eliza Factor's second novel is a beautiful and uplifting journey through the New York art scene of the 1980s, as lived by one true artist. You'll be hard-pressed to find a character more fully and honestly revealed across the pages of a book than Sarah Marker. A stunning and original exploration of family, romantic love, and the possibility of healing."--Joseph Weisberg, creator/executive producer of The Americans (FX Network) "By turns lyrical and flinty, searching and suspenseful, Love Maps is animated by the strivings and travails of characters who seek (and find) the real and the true, the territory instead of the map."--Thad Ziolkowski, author of Wichita The love in Love Maps is not the kind associated with domestic bliss; it is the kind that bubbles up at inopportune moments, attaching itself to people who might be better off free, causing mayhem and longing, along with moments of rare beauty. The title is taken from a series of paintings by Sarah Marker, an artist who ekes out a living teaching humanities at a fancy high school in Connecticut. The story begins when Sarah receives a letter from Philip, her erstwhile husband. They have lived separately for seven years, without having seen each other once, without having formally severed ties, in a state of sustained ambivalence. Now he wants to visit. As much as Sarah would like to see him, she is terrified at what he will do when he discovers that he has a son. Sarah bundles up her son and once again takes flight, only to arrive in a place she had not intended. While navigating the terrain of the 1980s art scene in New York City, she must confront the terrible events surrounding Philip's departure, and reconcile the expectations of domestic life with her own fractured experience of family, confronting the violence and aching love at the heart of this story.

"Eliza Factor's *Love Maps* is a delight, and I read it with mounting pleasure and admiration. It feels strange to think of *Love Maps* as a pleasure--this is, after all, a book that captures in technicolor detail the pain and vulnerability that come with just about every variety of human relationship. But prose this witty and psychologically deft, and structures this intricate and heartbreaking, don't come around often."--Ben Dolnick, author of *At the Bottom of Everything*"The tone and tension in *Love Maps* is expertly drawn. Between sisters and lovers, artists and architects, mothers and sons, and--of all things--people and ashes, Eliza Factor has managed to tell the truest kind of story: about the inconvenience of love, and the choices people make when they're most afraid."--Amanda Stern, author of *The Long Haul*Praise for *The Mercury Fountain*:"Eliza Factor's first novel, *The Mercury Fountain*, explores what happens when a life driven by ideology confronts implacable truths of science and human nature...Factor counters convention with a sharp sense of character, evocative subplots, and the dangerous allure of mercury itself."--New York Times Book (Editors' Choice)