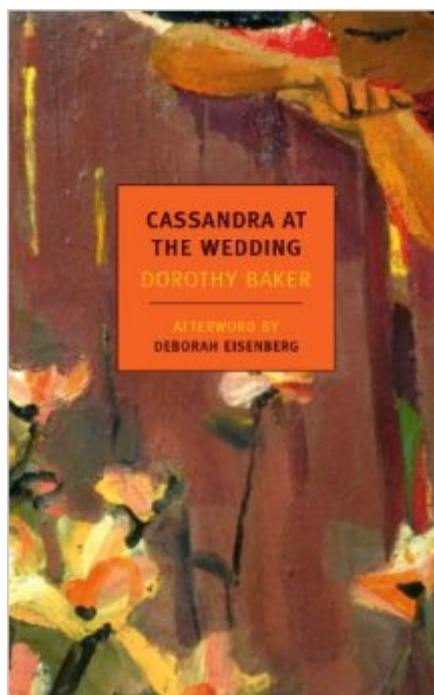


The book was found

# Cassandra At The Wedding (New York Review Books Classics)



## Synopsis

Cassandra Edwards is a graduate student at Berkeley: gay, brilliant, nerve-racked, miserable. At the beginning of this novel, she drives back to her family ranch in the foothills of the Sierras to attend the wedding of her identical twin, Judith, to a nice young doctor from Connecticut. Cassandra, however, is hell-bent on sabotaging the wedding. *Â* Dorothy Baker*â*™s entrancing tragicomic novella follows an unpredictable course of events in which her heroine appears variously as conniving, self-aware, pitiful, frenzied, absurd, and heartbroken*â*”at once utterly impossible and tremendously sympathetic. As she struggles to come to terms with the only life she has, Cassandra reckons with her complicated feelings about the sister who she feels owes it to her to be her alter ego; with her father, a brandy-soaked retired professor of philosophy; and with the ghost of her dead mother. *Â* First published in 1962, *Cassandra at the Wedding* is a book of enduring freshness, insight, and verve. Like the fiction of Jeffrey Eugenides and Jhumpa Lahiri, it is the work of a master stylist with a profound understanding of the complexities of the heart and mind.

## Book Information

Series: New York Review Books Classics

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: NYRB Classics; Reprint edition (August 21, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1590176014

ISBN-13: 978-1590176016

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars *Â* *Â* See all reviews*Â* (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #444,282 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in *Â* Books > Gay & Lesbian > Parenting & Families #388 in *Â* Books > Literature & Fiction > Women's Fiction > Sisters #564 in *Â* Books > Literature & Fiction > Women's Fiction > Single Women

## Customer Reviews

You're a twin --- so close to your sister that she moved across the country. Now she's getting married to a man you've never met and cutting the cord for good. And you're her only bridesmaid. In the universe we now inhabit --- the urban chickscape of "Sex and the City" --- Cassandra Edwards would have a posse of smart-talking, Chardonnay-swilling pals to help her through this overwrought moment. They'd gab for hours about her choice of a bridesmaid's dress. They'd speculate about the

groom's endowment. And they'd tease Cassandra for her ambivalence about catching the bouquet. "Cassandra at the Wedding" is a stunning rebuke to that shallow-as-glass sensibility. More to the point, it's a smart, stylish, disturbing novel --- a book much too good to languish at an .com ranking of 1,000,000. But then, Dorothy Baker is not exactly a household name. Young Man with a Horn --- her fictionalized account of the doomed jazz great Bix Beiderbecke --- was published in 1938. It's pure pleasure; I've read it a dozen times since discovering it as a kid. I thought it was her only novel until a Butler reader tipped me to "Cassandra at the Wedding", the last of what turn out to be Baker's three novels. Like "Young Man with a Horn," this novel begins effortlessly: "I told them I could be free by the twenty-first, and that I'd come home the twenty-second." That makes Cassandra seem chatty and friendly. Well, it doesn't take long for her bitchy side to surface. Example: Her twin's beloved is John Thomas Finch. Cassandra's comment: "Where'd she meet him --- Birdland?" Soon we see that Cassandra is an inventory of neurosis.

The first and last sections of this magnificent book are narrated by the redoubtably ironic Cassandra. These describe her role in the marriage of her twin sister, Judith, who narrates the novel's center section. The great achievement of the novel is Cassandra's theatrical and mesmerizing voice, and her childish, inebriated, overdramatic attempts to prevent her sister from abandoning her. We come to love Cassandra so much that we are almost persuaded that Jude should not marry the kind, strong, prepossessing MD, Jack. Jude's voice, ironic but less theatrical, is also a convincing tour de force. But marriage, of course, is the traditional climax of the romantic marriage plot--and so it goes. But "Cassandra at the Wedding" is not so simple. Cassandra, the reader will remember, is the famous figure from Greek mythology whose prophetic warnings of the fall of Troy went unheeded. And Judith is the biblical heroine who liberated her tribe by beheading the drunken lecher Holofernes. Taken together these two stories, lurking in the background of the names, would actually support Cassie's position at the wedding that her fragile family should not be invaded by the outsider and cast her as the protector of the clan. And indeed the vision she spins for Judith of the unconventional life they could live together as two sisters is compelling. Whether or not we are twins, the forsaking of our families of origin can feel like a betrayal and a loss. As Deborah Eisenberg notes, in her wonderful afterword, the novel also draws upon Plato's fable that explains love as each individual's search for her lost double, who in primeval times had made one spherical whole.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Cassandra at the Wedding (New York Review Books Classics) Wedding Planning : Every Bride's

Essential Wedding Guide: Plan The Perfect Wedding And Avoid Potential Mistakes (Wedding Planning Guide, Wedding Planner, Wedding Tips, Wedding Celebration) Wedding Planning: Affordable and Practical Wedding Guide for Planning The Best Wedding Celebration - Creative Wedding Ideas - Wedding Decorations - Wedding ... Accessories (Weddings by Sam Siv Book 1) Wedding Planning: How To Plan Your Dream Wedding - The Ultimate Guide To Planning An Affordable, Beautiful Wedding On A Budget (Wedding, Wedding Ideas Decorations, Wedding Budget) Make Your Wedding Budget Go Further: Learn Wedding Planner Secrets To High Quality, Cheap Weddings Through Effective Wedding Planning (wedding favors, ... wedding magazines, wedding bouquets,) Wedding Planning Guide: A Practical, on a Budget Guide to a Sweet and Affordable Wedding Celebration: Wedding ideas, Wedding tips, Step by Step Wedding Planning Wedding Planning - 25 Essentials: The Ultimate Guide for Selecting Dresses, Cakes and Decorations on a Budget (Wedding Planning, Wedding Registry, Wedding ... Rings, Wedding Reception, Getting Married) The New York Times Monday Through Friday Easy to Tough Crossword Puzzles: 50 Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Crossword Puzzles) The New York Times Acrostic Puzzles Volume 9: 50 Challenging Acrostics from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Acrostic Crosswords) Wedding Decoration Ideas - Wedding Planning On A Budget, Cheap Wedding Decorating Ideas DIY Outdoor or Indoor Wedding Book Wedding Planning on a Budget: The Ultimate Wedding Planner and Wedding Organizer to Help Plan Your Dream Wedding on a Budget: Weddings by Sam Siv, Book 24 The DIY Wedding: How to Bootstrap Your Way to the Perfect Wedding (Wedding Dress, Wedding Planning, Invitations, Centrepieces, Favours) Wedding Speeches: Father Of The Bride Speeches: How To Give The Perfect Speech At Your Perfectly Wonderful Daughter?s Wedding (Wedding Speeches - Books By Sam Siv) (Volume 2) A Book of Mediterranean Food (New York Review Books Classics) The Anatomy of Melancholy (New York Review Books Classics) A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962 (New York Review Books Classics) Poems of the Late T'ang (New York Review Books Classics) The Selected Poems of Osip Mandelstam (New York Review Books Classics) The Peach Blossom Fan (New York Review Books Classics) All About H. Hatterr (New York Review Books Classics)