



# The Romantics

By Galt Niederhoffer

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NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING KATIE HOLMES, JOSH DUHAMEL, AND ANNA PAQUIN, IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 24th, 2010

Laura and Lila were college roommates--one brooding and Jewish, the other the epitome of golden WASP-dom. Now it's ten years later, a day before Lila's wedding to Laura's former boyfriend, and as the guests arrive, Laura finds herself the only one not coupled up. Struggling with the traditionally thankless role of maid of honor, Laura realizes for the first time why she can't stop thinking about her long, tangled relationship with the groom. And it appears that he is not entirely ready for the altar himself. Unfolding over two days off the coast of Maine, *The Romantics* follows the shifting allegiances among an unforgettable set of characters.

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## The Romantics By Galt Niederhoffer Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In film producer Niederhoffer's wan second novel (following *A Taxonomy of Barnacles*), a love triangle takes center stage among an amorous group of nine Yale friends known to each other as The Romantics. As the group reunites for the marriage of Lila Hayes and Tom McDevon at a Maine estate six years after graduation, Niederhoffer omnisciently narrates the rivalry between wealthy blonde Lila and raven-haired Laura, her maid of honor and former roommate—the Nick to Lila's Gatsby. Laura and Tom dated early on in college, and their continuing relationship haunts Tom and Lila's over the ensuing years, which naturally causes friction. After the rehearsal dinner, the entire wedding party, minus Lila, embarks on a raucous evening of drinking and reminiscing. Neither the characters nor the story convince as Niederhoffer repeats thin stereotypes in a vain attempt to strengthen the plot: Laura the ethnic outsider; Tom the complex man yearning for an uncomplicated relationship; Lila the uncomplicated beauty with all of the necessary social accoutrements. The rest of the cast serves as background noise in this forgettable postcollegiate exercise.

(July)

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From [Booklist](#)

Niederhoffer's nuanced, piercing follow-up to her debut, *A Taxonomy of Barnacles* (2005), focuses on a group of college friends reuniting for a wedding. Now in their late twenties, all of the friends have paired off together save for Laura Rosen. The bride, Lila Hayes, is Laura's former roommate and best friend, and the groom, Tom McDevon, is the ex-boyfriend she's still very much in love with. As the weekend progresses, Niederhoffer gracefully unveils little details about the friends: Laura and Tom had an affair behind Lila's back after college. Lila's brother Chip is in love with Laura. Their other six friends are hiding various ambitions and attractions. When the friends, minus Lila who is prepping for her big day, set out on a late-night, drunken trip on a raft and end up losing Tom in a swim back to shore, they pair up and set off to look for him, which leads to some surprising revelations. An involving, tightly woven tale with fascinating characters. --Kristine Huntley

Review

"A smart, edgy novel that is wickedly insightful about class and privilege, amusingly cynical about love and friendship, and thoroughly entertaining throughout." ?*Tom Perrotta*

"Illustrates why well-wrought cynicism never goes out of style." ?*The New York Times*

"An engrossing tale of family drama and true love--one that offers the pleasures of a layered, old-fashioned romance." ?*People on A Taxonomy of Barnacles*

"Droll and sophisticated . . . a winning, screwball comedy." ?*Entertainment Weekly on A Taxonomy of Barnacles*

"A clever, comic melodrama . . . At its funniest, *A Taxonomy of Barnacles* reminded me of the classic Hollywood screwball comedies from the thirties." ?*USA Today on A Taxonomy of Barnacles*

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