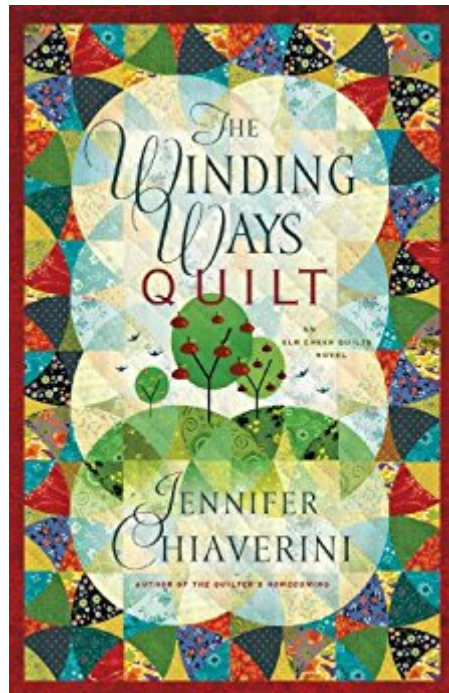


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# The Winding Ways Quilt: An Elm Creek Quilts Novel (The Elm Creek Quilts Book 12)



## Synopsis

Jennifer Chiaverini's bestselling Elm Creek Quilts series continues with *The Winding Ways Quilt*, in which the arrival of newcomers into the circle of quilters heralds unexpected journeys down pathways near and far. Quilters have flocked to Elm Creek Manor to learn from Master Quilter Sylvia Compson and her expert colleagues. There's Sarah, Sylvia's onetime apprentice who's paired her quilting accomplishments with a mind for running the business of Elm Creek Quilts; Agnes, who has a gift for appliqué; Gwen, who stitches innovative art quilts; Diane, a whiz at the technicalities of quick-piecing; and Bonnie, with her encyclopedic knowledge of folk art patterns. But with Judy and Summer, two other founding members of the Elm Creek Quilters, departing to pursue other opportunities, will the new teachers be able to fill in the gaps created by the loss of their expertise—and more important, their friendship? "When I think of all the different paths I could have followed in my life, all the twists and turns that could have led me anywhere," muses incoming teacher Gretchen, "it's something of a miracle that I ended up here, surrounded by loving friends." But what of friends departed? As Sylvia contemplates a tribute to the partnership of the Elm Creek Quilters, she is reminded of a traditional quilt pattern whose curved pieces symbolize a journey. *Winding Ways*, a mosaic of overlapping circles and intertwining curves, would capture the spirit of their friendship at the moment of its transformation. Will Sylvia's choice inspire the founding members to remember that each is a unique part of a magnificent whole? Will the newcomers find ways to contribute, and to earn their place? *The Winding Ways Quilt* considers the complicated, often hidden meanings of presence and absence, and what change can mean for those who have come to rely upon one another.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this book, Jennifer Chiaverini devotes a chapter to each of the original Elm Street Quilters, delving into their past and catching up with the present and possible future of the women. In each case, a quilt played a part in each woman's past, sometimes in a positive way and sometimes a negative one. This is a book of transition as Judy and Summer prepare to move off and Gretchen, Anna, and Maggie come in to fill different positions at Elm Street Manor. There are some reconciliations between women and also uncertainty as to what the future will bring. There is a pregnancy and a shaky romantic relationship. Each chapter blends together with the others to create a story that is much like a quilt, with each section contributing to a pleasing whole. Series fans both new and old should be pleased with this book.

Another great Elm Creek Quilts book about transitions in women's lives. I'm a long term fan, and I think this book would probably be best enjoyed by other followers of the series, despite the repetition from other books. It might be difficult as a stand-alone novel. There's probably no ideal way to cover so much back story of the familiar characters, but Jennifer Chiaverini does as good a job as any. Not a whole lot of progress is made on the overall plot of the series' main characters- Sarah becomes pregnant, Summer's just about to move for grad school, Bonnie is pondering career options, Gwen's writing her paper, Diane is just about to send her youngest off to college- and then the book leaves them hanging there just as they face their transitions. It leaves a lot of potential for future books, but there's not a lot of resolution. Still, I really enjoyed the book and it was great to "check in" with the series' original characters. Jennifer Chiaverini's writing style is warm, cozy and comfortable, and she creates some really beautiful images using the symbolism of quilting.

I continue to be amazed that Jennifer Chiaverini can sustain the high quality of her books over such a long series. Every time a book comes out, I pick it up with mixed feelings of anticipation and

anxiety. Anticipation of what wonderful stories will be included and anxiety that this book can't be as good as the previous ones. I need to learn to let go of the anxiety since Ms. Chiaverini continues to deliver each and every time. The main strength of these books is the many multifaceted characters. Many writers of this type of literature tend to make the characters good or bad; black or white. These books are the exception to that trend. Each character is well drawn with both positive and negative traits (just like real life) and I end up caring about each and every one. A perfect example of this is the character of Diane. She often comes across very harsh (opinionated and stubborn), but the book also shows her deep compassion and love. It explores how someone, who on the surface at least is unlovable, can have so many facets of her character and be loved by so many people. In addition, the books continue to evolve by introducing new characters to inject new stories and interpersonal interactions. It isn't getting stale and that's quite a compliment for a series twelve books strong. If you enjoy a good read; if you enjoy quilting; if you enjoy stories about strong, healthy women's relationships, this is the perfect series for you. Enjoy!!!

I was so happy to find that Jennifer Chiaverini's newest book was available. I couldn't wait to read it, but I was sadly disappointed. So much of Bonnie, Sylvia, Agnes and Diane's stories had already been told. I felt like I was reading from a previous novel. (I felt the same way about *The New Year's Quilt*.) I loved the stories about Gwen, Judy and Summer. These were new and were wonderful to read. They were exactly what I was looking for in an Elm Creek novel. I hope that the next Elm Creek novel won't rehash the previous novels, but will be completely new stories.

*The Winding Ways Quilt* was a tremendous disappointment. I have read every Elm Creek novel, and this one was simply repetition after repetition of earlier works. I thought *The New Year's Quilt* was Chiaverini's weakest work until I read *Winding Ways*. Perhaps it is time for the author to take a long break, and concentrate on quality content rather than quantity.

This book helps you catch up on the background information of all the Elm Creek quilters without being repetitive. As always, the writing is beautiful and I came away with some knowledge about the importance of quilts as social history, as well as the importance of long friendships for personal history.

This was my very first Kindle book, and it did not disappoint. What I love about the Elm Creek Quilts books - I know exactly what I'm going to get. The writing style is easy-going, descriptive but not too

descriptive. I know the characters. They will have some turmoil, but there is usually a happy ending. They are indeed like a quilt, with each chapter told from a different character's point of view. They all care deeply about quilting and each other. And I usually cry a little bit toward the end. I love being immersed in this world for a day or two. And reading it on a Kindle was way cool!

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