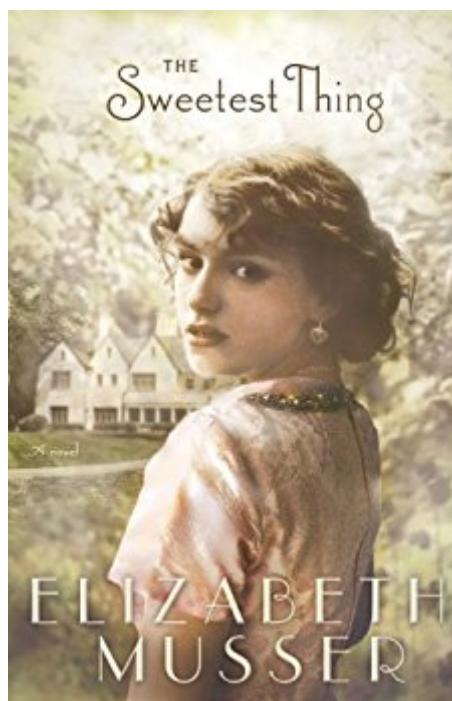


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# The Sweetest Thing



## Synopsis

The Singleton family's fortunes seem unaffected by the Great Depression, and Perri--along with the other girls at Atlanta's elite Washington Seminary--lives a carefree life of tea dances with college boys, matinees at the cinema, and debut parties. But when tragedies strike, Perri is confronted with a world far different from the one she has always known. At the insistence of her parents, Mary "Dobbs" Dillard, the daughter of an itinerant preacher, is sent from inner-city Chicago to live with her aunt and attend Washington Seminary, bringing confrontation and radical ideas. Her arrival intersects at the point of Perri's ultimate crisis, and the tragedy forges an unlikely friendship. *The Sweetest Thing* tells the story of two remarkable young women--opposites in every way--fighting for the same goal: surviving tumultuous change.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I love history. I love to read historical fiction. So it was with my excitement that I got *The Sweetest Thing* by Elizabeth Musser to review. I am fascinated with the Depression Era as that is when my grandparents were born and I thought this was going to be a terrific book. I don't want to give the

book's entire plot away. Which this is going to be hard...Perri's world is shattered within the first chapter. She lives in a well-to-do family and was quite accustomed to pretty much getting whatever she wanted, attending the best school and being quite the little socialite. Her neighbors take in a niece who's poor. Mary Dobbs comes from a totally different world. One where faith is supreme, and you give what you have to those who need it more than you do. The two girls become friends, but can their friendship survive through their drastically different lives? Can Mary Dobbs keep her faith as Perri finds hers? Honestly, I had to struggle to finish this book. I kind of felt like the characters were forced to come alive. And personally, I thought the plot was way too far fetched. The first chapter deals with extremely difficult issues (well, the whole book does) and you have no time at all to get to know any of the characters and form a sort of relationship with them before tragedy strikes. In a way, the book felt abrupt. I found it hard to relate to any of the characters and really ended up not caring how things turned out in the end. This book wasn't for me personally. However, the fact that I got it to read the week of our tornado may have clouded my thoughts on the book as I was already dealing with the emotional upheaval of living in a disaster zone and things in real life looked bleak enough.

It's 1933 in Atlanta; Perri Singleton is excited after hearing President Roosevelt speak on the radio. She believes there is hope for the terrible economy and for her father and his concerns over his failing bank. Perri is off to the train station to pick up the niece of her mother's dear friend Mrs. Chandler. There she meets Mary Dobbs Dillard from Chicago, whom she decides is a most peculiar girl. Little does she know that tragedy will strike her family and present Perri with the most difficult challenges of her life. Mary Dobbs, or just Dobbs her friends call her, and Perri become quick friends even though they come from vastly different backgrounds. Perri is accustomed to Atlanta society, while Dobbs has been living meekly and traveling with her family to spread the gospel. Through Dobbs teachings she tries to show Perri how to find her true meaning in life outside of Atlanta society. While helping Perri, Dobbs finds herself in her own troubling mystery. Jewelry and other valuables from her Aunt Josie's house have gone missing and her aunts cook Anna has been sent to the Alms Houses for stealing them. Dobbs learns this all from Anna's daughter Parthenia who says she knows the person who stole the items, but is too scared to come forward and clear her mother's name. Dobbs is determined to find justice so Anna can leave the Alms Houses and return to her family. I absolutely love this book; the characters are wonderfully well written and relatable. I like how the author tied in faith and has Perri and Dobbs test their faith at one time or another throughout the entire book. I think most would agree that we have all struggled with our faith at one time or another.

Musser was able to turn such tragic events into life lessons.

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