



GALLERY BOOKS

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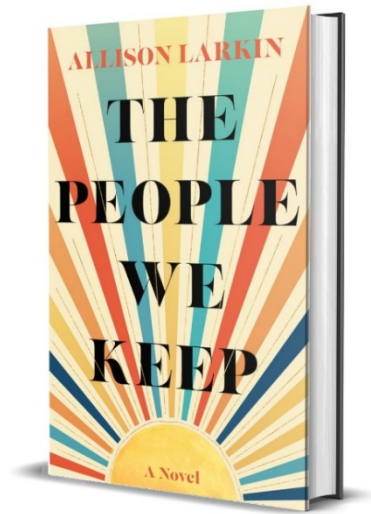
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A JULY BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB SELECTION

THE PEOPLE WE KEEP

- A Novel -

Allison Larkin



Gallery Books / On Sale: August 3, 2021

"Larkin has created a **memorable character in April**, whose journey toward belonging and self-acceptance will resonate with readers. The depiction of the mid-1990s is pitch-perfect." —**Booklist, starred review**

"Hopeful and heartbreaking." —*Parade*

"Intimate, urgent and direct; April's first-person voice is magnetic, compelling... [A] **propulsive, empathetic novel.**" —**Shelf Awareness**

"Music and the generosity of strangers provide healing in Larkin's emotionally expansive latest... **This hopeful story will move readers.**" —*Publishers Weekly*

"Larkin has given us a **heroine who is raw and real, a young person capable of breaking your heart one moment and lifting it up the next.**" —Chris Bohjalian, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Flight Attendant*

"A story so true and tender-hearted. **Read it! You'll be so glad you did.**" —Therese Anne Fowler, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald* and *A Well-Behaved Woman*

"An emotionally gripping journey. **April had me on the first page and hasn't let me go yet.**" —Brunonia Barry, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Lace Reader* and *The Fifth Petal*

Internationally bestselling author **Allison Larkin** “knows her characters so well” (Rainbow Rowell, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Eleanor & Park*), and brings her “tender and real” (Taylor Jenkins Reid, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Daisy Jones & The Six*) insight to every novel she writes.

Larkin’s latest, **THE PEOPLE WE KEEP** (Gallery Books; hardcover; 8/3/21), is no exception—it’s a gorgeously lyrical, heartbreaking, and soul-affirming coming-of-age story following a young songwriter longing to find her place in the world. It’s Larkin’s breakout novel, and explores how your connections with others can transform and shape you throughout your life.

Little River, New York, 1994: April Sawicki is living in a motorless motorhome that her absent father won in a poker game. Failing out of school, picking up shifts at Margo’s diner, she’s left fending for herself in a town where she’s never quite felt at home. When she “borrows” her neighbor’s car to perform at an open mic night, she realizes her life could be much bigger than Little River. After a fight with her dad, April packs up her stuff and leaves for good, setting off on a journey to find a life that’s all hers.

Driving without a chosen destination, she stops to rest in Ithaca. Her only plan is to survive, but as she looks for work, she finds a kindred sense of belonging at Café Decadence, the local coffee shop. Still, somehow, it doesn’t make sense to her that life could be this easy. The more she falls in love with her friends in Ithaca, the more she can’t shake the feeling that she’ll hurt them the way she’s been hurt.

As April moves through the world, meeting people who feel like home, she chronicles her life in the songs she writes and discovers that where she came from doesn’t dictate who she has to be.

This novel is an uplifting tale for anyone who has ever yearned for the fierce power of found family or to grasp the profound beauty of choosing to belong. It’s a nostalgic escape into Ithaca, NY and Asheville, NC in the 1990s, where love wasn’t so easily found on an app and people weren’t updating Instagram with their whereabouts, providing a wistful look into the past for those looking for healing amidst times of uncertainty.



Allison Larkin is the internationally bestselling author of the novels *Stay*, *Why Can't I Be You*, and *Swimming for Sunlight*. Her short fiction has been published in the *Summerset Review* and *Slice*, and nonfiction in the anthologies, *I'm Not the Biggest Bitch in This Relationship* and *Author in Progress*. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, with her husband, Jeremy.

THE PEOPLE WE KEEP by Allison Larkin
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GALLERY BOOKS, a division of Simon & Schuster, is an imprint dedicated to publishing a variety of must-read books on a wide array of topics. Launched in 2010, Gallery is designed to showcase established voices and to introduce emerging new ones—in both fiction and nonfiction. Gallery Books is the publisher of *Five Presidents* by Clint Hill, *The Way I Heard It* by Mike Rowe, *Beautiful Things* by Hunter Biden, *The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo* by Amy Schumer, *One by One* and *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware, *The Problem with Everything* by Meghan Daum, *American Like Me* by America Ferrera, *The Last Black Unicorn* by Tiffany Haddish, *Queenie* by Candice Carty-Williams, and *The Only Good Indians* by Stephen Graham Jones.

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ADDITIONAL PRAISE FOR *THE PEOPLE WE KEEP*

“In sparkling and unflinching prose, Larkin spins a propulsive story about friendship and intimacy, love and loss, and the healing power of art. **A big-hearted and deeply moving novel.**” —**Bruce Holsinger, author of *The Gifted School***

“Raw, surprising and ultimately uplifting. *The People We Keep* **will break your heart a million different ways before putting it back together again.**” —**Julia Claiborne Johnson, author of *Be Frank with Me* and *Better Luck Next Time***

“Raw, emotional, and deeply consuming... **the kind of novel that sticks in your soul.** Allison Larkin brings insight and emotion to this tale.” —**Ann Mah, bestselling author of *The Lost Vintage***
