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Women On The Brink

G. Elizabeth Kretchmer

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Women on the Brink is a stunning collection of loosely linked stories in which women aged thirteen to ninety must face the unwelcome realities of their lives. Sometimes gritty, sometimes humorous, and always compassionate, G. Elizabeth Kretchmer's prose takes the reader on a compelling ride alongside these ordinary women as they wrestle with family relationships, self-esteem, socioeconomic status, maternal obligations, and need for independence. In "Skydancer," a young mother resents her newborn baby. In "Float Away," an at-risk teen is desperate to find a new home. A minister's wife struggles with secrets in "Liar's Game." A despondent housewife longs for purpose in "Alligator Poetry." The protagonist in "Tasting Freedom" wrestles with decisions about her aging mother's care. And in "From Here to Cafayate," a woman refuses to give up on the perpetually flawed relationship she has shared with her sister for nearly ninety years. Each story is enhanced by one of fourteen original poems contributed by talented poets specifically for this collection and its themes. Although the stories stand alone, they are further strengthened by the relationships among the various characters throughout the collection. Readers of Ms. Kretchmer's first novel, The Damnable Legacy, will also delight to find that some of the characters from that novel have reappeared here. The women in this collection may or may not be the type you'd invite over for lunch. Some of them are tough. Some aren't all that likeable. Some might not see the world the way you do. But they're compelling in their own right as they reflect women in today's world—women who have come along a difficult path—and as they courageously take control of their lives.

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