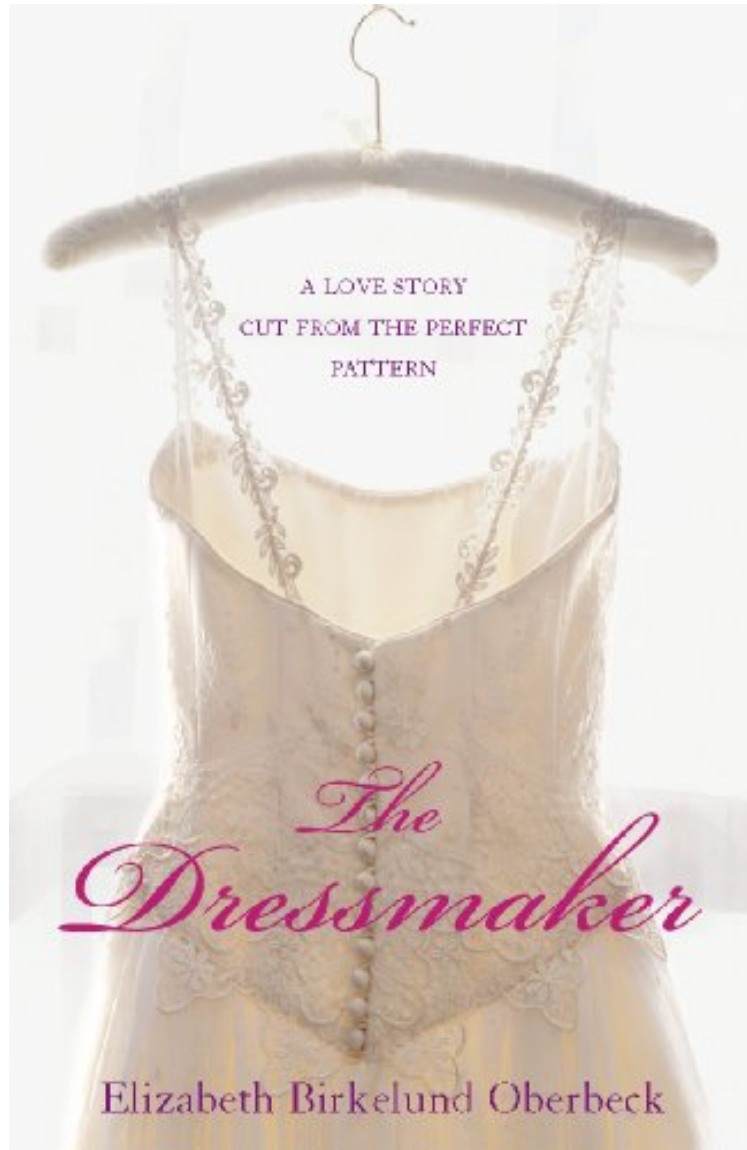


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## The Dressmaker

Von Elizabeth Birkelund Oberbeck  
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Produktinformation Veröffentlicht am: 2012-10-31 Erscheinungsdatum: 2012-10-31 File Name: B0091R2VT6  
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**Von Elizabeth Birkelund Oberbeck : The Dressmaker** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dressmaker:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Melancholisch Von Fuchs Joan Das Buch hat ein sehr langsames Tempo, an das man sich erst gewöhnen muss und leider bin ich nie vollständig dafür warm geworden, denn es blieb mir alles in allem etwas zu vage. Die Teile, in denen Haute Couture beschrieben werden sind sehr spannend und die einzigen mit wirklich Tempo, der Rest ist sehr gemächlich,

vielleicht gewollt so, um den Unterschied Stadt-Land noch etwas zu verdeutlichen. Die Liebesgeschichte ist natrlich tragisch, auf mehreren Ebenen und \* Spoiler \* es gibt kein Happy End. Ich habe das Buch dann aber doch gerne gelesen, auch wenn es mich eher traurig gemacht hat.

**Kurzbeschreibung** Monsieur Claude Reynaud is known throughout France for his talent for making fabulous clothes. The most elegant women in Paris regularly undertake the pilgrimage to the cobbled village of Senlis to be charmed by the tailor in his cluttered studio by the century-old apple tree. Claude can take a measurement at a glance, stores everything in his head, and fashions each dress by hand. And, despite his ex-wife's protests, he refuses to be lured by the promise of the Parisian fashion industry. He is too old change and certainly too old to fall in love: his only passion is his studio. Then one afternoon, in a cloud of spring blossom, Mademoiselle Valentine de Verlay arrives on Claude's doorstep. She commissions him to create her wedding dress. But before the first stitch has even been made, Claude realises that for the first time in his life he has fallen passionately in love and, very quickly, the seams of both their lives begin to unravel...From Publishers Weekly  
In the rural French town of Senlis, mild-mannered, middle-aged tailor Claude Reynaud fashions wedding gowns, dresses and suits for Parisian women in the know; for the locals, he repairs torn seams, sews on buttons and alters hemlines. Claude's predictable life turns upside down when the charming parisienne Valentine de Verlay commissions him to make her wedding dress, and he falls in love with her. Claude's wife left him eight years ago (but, we learn early on, no divorce papers have been signed), and Valentine's fianc, Victor, is a singularly unlikable, one-dimensional character (whose last name, of all things, is "Couturier"). Claude and Valentine couple early on, but, despite being in love with Claude, Valentine stays on track for the marriage to Victor. When Claude joins up with a major Paris designer to be closer to Valentine, former Cosmopolitan columnist Oberbeck cleverly portrays Claude's entre into high fashion, but she makes a weak case for Claude's dislike of all the attention. An inexplicably tragic side plot involving the teenage girlfriend of one of Claude's nephews further derails the proceedings. Oberbeck successfully creates the intrigue one wants for a wedding gown designer who falls in love with his client and vice versa, but doesn't manage it all the way through to the principals' New York collision. (July)  
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From Booklist  
Oberbeck, a writer for Cosmopolitan and Glamour, injects an unexpected twist into the French fashion scene in her debut novel. She has built her romantic tale around a far-from-glamorous dressmaker, Claude Reynaud, who eschews the Parisian fashion runways, opting instead to design his wedding dresses and hand-sewn gowns in the small town outside Paris where he learned his trade from his father and grandfather. Claude, divorced, has no children, but dotes on his nephews, and has convinced himself he is happy living with only his loquacious parrot. But then his mundane existence is upended by Valentine de Verlay, a bride-to-be who comes to Claude to design her wedding dress and rekindles feelings he thought had died forever. Oberbeck chronicles their doomed romance on its dizzying journey to Paris and New York, during which Claude is amazed that a beauty like Valentine would find him at all appealing. Oberbeck's romp is as light and frothy as one of Claude's chiffon creations, yet it is also an engaging dissection of high fashion and those who determine its whimsical direction. Deborah Donovan  
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