



## Between Us Girls

*Sally John*

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### **Between Us Girls** Sally John

From bestselling Christian fiction author Sally John comes a brand-new series featuring broken lives, new beginnings...and unexpected romance.

Welcome to Casa de Vida—eleven quaint bungalows located three blocks from the Pacific Ocean in tiny Seaside Village, California. Owner Liv McAlister never advertises vacancies beyond a small hand-lettered sign out front, preferring to trust that God will send the right tenant at just the right time. And He always does.

Meet Jasmyn Albright—she’s had more than her share of bad breaks lately, beginning with the tornado that demolished her farmhouse. Emotionally fragile and feeling utterly alone, Jasmyn heads west, hoping to outrun her heartbreak. And she doesn’t stop until she notices a small sign that reads “Vacancy.” Before she’s quite aware of how it all happened, Jasmyn finds herself the newest tenant at Casa de Vida. She hardly dares to hope that her fortunes might be about to change...but of course when God is at work, anything can happen, and new beginnings are one of His specialties.

Sometimes among strangers, family happens. And sometimes, when we least expect it, romance is a welcome guest.

### **Between Us Girls Details**

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Author : Sally John

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## From Reader Review Between Us Girls for online ebook

### Tracy says

Easy read with likeable characters. I look forward to finding out more about the characters as the series continues.

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### Iola says

Waitress Jasmyn Albright lives in the tiny town of Valley Oaks, Illinois, in the same house her mother and grandmother lived in. She's stuck in a rut and knows it, until a catastrophe forces her to make some life changes—one of which is a vacation in sunny San Diego. But even that doesn't go according to plan, and she finds herself in the care of Liz, and a temporary resident of the Casa de Vida Cottages, just a few blocks from the beach.

There were parts of *Between Us Girls*. I liked, especially the slightly offbeat character of Liz, the intelligent yet shy engineer Samantha, the mysterious Keagan, and Beau, the gentle giant. I also liked the way both Jasmyn and Samantha were able to better come to terms with their family backgrounds, and to begin to develop relationships with God.

But there were things which detracted from my enjoyment, like the way the beginning was really providing background rather than getting into the story, the way the story moved from Illinois to San Diego with no warning, and the list of residents at the Casa de Vida Cottages—there were a lot of characters to keep straight, and I got lost more than once. I also wasn't especially keen on Jasmyn. I didn't know why she'd stayed in Valley Oaks all those years when she said she never fitted in there. I understood why she left (and why she loved San Diego—who wouldn't), but if she was that unhappy, why hadn't she left years earlier?

I'm in two minds about *Between Us Girls*. The writing was excellent, there was a solid underlying Christian message, and I loved the San Diego setting, but overall I felt it took too long to get going, it was too easy to put down, and the complexities of multiple character relationships made it hard to pick back up again. I can usually finish a novel in a day, or two at the most, but this took me a week.

I'd be interested in knowing what happens next for Jasmyn, Sam and the other Casa de Vida residents, but next time I'd like it to get straight into the story rather than having the first few chapters feel like an extended prologue.

Thanks to NetGalley for providing a free ebook for review.

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### Paula R. Miller says

#### Great read!

Hard to put down once you are started!!  
Sally does not disappoint & I look forward to reading all of her books!

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## **Melissa Bynum says**

Very sweet book, plan to read the rest of the series.

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## **Collene says**

Between Us Girls is the first book in a new heartwarming series (Family of the Heart series) by Sally John.

The novel builds as you read it and eventually you just can't put it down. The characters are what makes this book great. Jasmyn Albright is the main character who feels she just can't fit in anywhere, but there is also Sam, Liv, Keagan, Chad and Beau. During the novel each character grows. The novel is set in communities in California and Illinois.

I liked this book because it was different from anything I had ever read. There is a Christian slant to it, but it definitely is not preachy. The plot was well thought out and it moves very quickly.

The main setting, Casa de Vida, is a place I'd love to live. The characters are far from picture perfect. They could be people you'd know in your own community. There is an element of romance, but it is not the main theme. I would recommend it.

A complimentary copy of this book was given to me from Harvest House through NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

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## **Heidi Strybos says**

It's been awhile since I read one of Sally John books. It was good but I liked her other series better. Still will read the second book

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## **Holly Gibbs says**

### **Nice, easy read**

This book was a good, quick, light read. Well written and very easy to follow. It is the perfect summer beach read.

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## **Laura says**

"I can't explain why this world is full of such pain and heartache and evil and beauty and goodness and wonder. All I know for certain is that God is God and I am not. He's not a genie (who gave me things if I performed correctly) or a zapper (if I did not perform correctly). That takes a huge weight off my shoulders. It frees me up to simply share the journey with others." Sally Johns Between Us Girls

Jasmyn's life is in chaos – six months ago, she lost everything she owned to a tornado who destroyed the family house, barns and land in the Midwest, she sold the land which made the residents in town angry because a strip mall was coming to town which would take away from local commerce and then, when she took a long awaited vacation in San Diego, California.....her rental car was stolen, along with everything she owned (except the new car she left at home). And along comes Liv.....Liv, who is used to hurting people, needy people, who she gathers in and helps to make their worlds better and become a part of her family. Between Us Girls is a wonderful Christian fiction novel that explores the complexities of the people who live in the cottages owned by Liv and how much we need relationships and the connections that can be formed through good and tough times. A beautiful picture created by encouraging, uplifting and sometimes difficult words, Between Us Girls received a 5+ rating from me and thanks to a wonderful author.

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### **Cindy says**

#### **God works in mysterious ways**

This author was recommended by a friend. This book is about a group of misfits brought together to form a family. The apartment owner/manger has a deep relationship with God. Her life is faith led and in turn people are "led" to her and her cottages. The relationships grow, change, evolve. I felt the support for each other and friendships formed were moving. It's very good and I look forward to the next book.

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### **Julia Knight says**

#### **Great Read**

The book keeps your interest. It weaves the lives of folks together and makes family and relationships the touch your heart. I would rate it G for all audiences. My kind of book!

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### **Marcie says**

I really enjoyed this book. It started out a little bit slow, but once I finally got into it I couldn't put it down. A cute store of finding yourself and finding your own family.

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### **Beverly says**

#### **Families**

A family should portray reflection of unity. This unity should show outwardly with eyes, arms and your emotions. In this book "between us girls" shows us a group of people even though sometimes so different are bound by their love for each other no matter the differences.

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## Dale Harcombe says

Three and a half stars

This novel is as gentle and sweet as its cover. After a series of disasters Jasmyn Albright ends up in a seaside village in California. Her plan is a holiday before returning to her real life in the Midwest, where her best friend Quinn still lives. But then circumstances conspire to keep her a bit longer at Casa de Vida. The owner of the complex of cottages, Liv McAlister, who has a knack for collecting misfits, believes God has sent Jasmyn there for a reason.

I enjoyed the different characters and getting to know them and seeing how they respond to situations, although it took me a little while to remember who was who. But once I settled down with them I liked how different they all were. I loved Liv and her trusting, prayerful nature, also Samantha who is not so trusting of people and a couple of the guy characters were interesting. Strangely, it was Jasmyn that at times irritated me a little. Just a little too much sunshine at times. But still it was a delightful read with a Christian message and just something to sink into and enjoy after my previous book which had shown a much darker side of humanity. This was just the type of book I needed at the time. This was my first book by this author and I may investigate some of her other books.

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## Elizabeth says

I grabbed this book the last time I was at the library thinking I just wanted something soul-nourishing to read. This fit the bill to a T! The chapters were short which made it easy to fit into my incredibly busy life and it was hard to put down. I loved the character development and how all the little stories fit together into the end. It DID leave me longing for more, so I'm going to read book 2 next.

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## Michelle says

"Between Us Girls" by Sally John is a humble book filled with the secrets of the universe. I have always been bad with relationships and this book addresses that need and the yearning each of us has for fellowship with each other and the God of the universe. But it is not a "preachy" book. Instead it is the kind of book that sits on that special shelf designed for your keeper books--you know--the ones you read over and over again because you need to reread its pages at various stages in your life.

A series of disasters befall Jasmyn, a young adult who grew up never knowing who her father was, living with 2 strict grandparents. being teased by classmates and a mother who chased after anything in pants. Disasters such as both grandparents dying, followed by her mother getting cancer and dying, followed by a tornado that destroys the only home she has ever had.

The tornado disaster finally pushes Jasmyn out of her comfort zone and she takes her first vacation to San Diego, California. But disaster follows her there. While visiting a small seaside town that feels like home to her, the rental car and all her luggage is stolen. An elderly woman, Liv, who owns some cottages befriends her and allows her to stay in Cottage Number 11 to which the other cottages inhabitants loan her items to make hers cozy. After a couple of weeks, she is on her way to the airport when she gets the news that Liv has had a heart attack. So Jasmyn ends up managing the cottages till Liv is better.

The seaside cottages feel like home to Jasmyn, but so does the small town in Illinois, where she grew up. As

she prepares to leave California for the third time, her heart is torn. Where does she truly belong?

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