

Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries)

By Jenny Offill

Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) By Jenny Offill

ONE OF THE 10 BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR - THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

A Best Book of the Year: *The New Yorker*, *The Boston Globe*, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *Vogue.com*, *Electric Literature*, *Buzzfeed*

In the beginning, it was easy to imagine their future. They were young and giddy, sure of themselves and of their love for each other. “Dept. of Speculation” was their code name for all the thrilling uncertainties that lay ahead. Then they got married, had a child and navigated the familiar calamities of family life—a colicky baby, a faltering relationship, stalled ambitions.

When their marriage reaches a sudden breaking point, the wife tries to retrace the steps that have led them to this place, invoking everything from Kafka to the Stoics to doomed Russian cosmonauts as she analyzes what is lost and what remains. In language that shimmers with rage and longing and wit, Offill has created a brilliantly suspenseful love story—a novel to read in one sitting, even as its piercing meditations linger long after the last page.

Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) By Jenny Offill Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #39498 in Books
- Brand: Vintage Books
- Published on: 2014-10-07
- Released on: 2014-10-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.01" h x .59" w x 5.16" l, .81 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

 [Download Dept. of Speculation \(Vintage Contemporaries\) ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Dept. of Speculation \(Vintage Contemporaries\) ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

From Booklist

This is a magnetic novel about a marriage of giddy bliss and stratospheric anxiety, bedrock alliance and wrenching tectonic shifts. Offill, author of the novel *Last Things* (1999) and various children's books, covers this shifting terrain and its stormy weather in an exquisitely fine-tuned, journal-like account narrated by "the wife," an ironic self-designation rooted in her growing fears about her marital state. She is smart if a bit drifty, imaginative and selectively observant, and so precisely articulate that her perfect, simple sentences vibrate like violin strings. And she is mordantly funny, a wry taxonomist of emotions and relationships. Her dispatches from the fog of new motherhood are hilarious and subversive. Her cynical pursuit of self-improvement is painfully accurate. Her Richter-scale analysis of the aftershocks of infidelity is gripping. Nothing depicted in this portrait of a family in quiet disarray is unfamiliar in life or in literature, and that is the artistic magic of Offill's stunning performance. She has sliced life thin enough for a microscope slide and magnified it until it fills the mind's eye and the heart. --Donna Seaman

Review

"Shimmering. . . . Breathtaking. . . . Joyously demanding." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"Slender, quietly smashing. . . . A book so radiant, so sparkling with sunlight and sorrow, that it almost makes a person gasp." —*The Boston Globe*

"Powerful. . . . Exquisite. . . . A novel that's wonderfully hard to encapsulate, because it faces in many directions at the same time, and glitters with different emotional colors." —*The New Yorker*

"A startling feat of storytelling . . . Each line a dazzling, perfectly chiseled arrowhead aimed at your heart." —*Vanity Fair*

"*Dept. of Speculation* resembles no book I've read before. If I tell you that it's funny, and moving, and true; that it's as compact and mysterious as a neutron; that it tells a profound story of love and parenthood while invoking (among others) Keats, Kafka, Einstein, Russian cosmonauts, and advice for the housewife of 1897, will you please simply believe me, and read it?" —Michael Cunningham

"You can read Jenny Offill's new novel in about two hours. It's short and funny and absorbing, an effortless-seeming downhill ride that picks up astonishing narrative speed as it goes." —*The New York Review of Books*

"Gorgeous, funny, a profound and profoundly moving work of art. Jenny Offill is a master of form and feeling, and she gets life on the page in new, startling ways." —Sam Lipsyte

"Introspective and resonant. . . . Offill uses her novel to explore the question of how to be an artist as well as a wife and mother, when these states can feel impossibly contradictory." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Absorbing and highly readable. . . . Intriguing, beautifully written, sly, and often profound." —NPR

"Audacious . . . Hilarious An account of matrimony and motherhood that breaks free of the all-too-limiting traditional stories of wives and mothers. . . . It may be difficult to truly know what happens between

two people, but Offill gets alarmingly close.” —*The Atlantic*

“Piercingly honest. . . . A series of wry vignettes that deepen movingly.” —*Vogue*

“*Dept. of Speculation* is a riposte to the notion that domestic fiction is humdrum and unambitious. . . . A shattered novel that stabs and sparkles at the same time. It is the kind of book that you will be quoting over and over to friends who don’t quite understand, until they give in and read it too. . . . A book this sad shouldn’t be so much fun to read.” —*The Guardian* (London)

“Whip-smart, defying description, will bring your walls down around you.” —*Flavorwire*

“[A] mini marvel of a novel. . . . Unfolds in tart, tiny chapters suffused with pithy philosophical musings, scientific tidbits, and poetic sayings that collectively guide a brainy, beleaguered couple through the tricky emotional terrain of their once wondrous, now wobbly union.” —*Elle*

About the Author

Jenny Offill is the author of the novel *Last Things*, which was chosen as a Notable Book of the Year by *The New York Times* and was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* First Book Award. She teaches in the writing programs at Queens University, Brooklyn College, and Columbia University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Richey:

Hey guys, do you desire to find a new book to learn? May be the book with the title *Dept. of Speculation* (Vintage Contemporaries) suitable to you? Often the book was written by renowned writer in this era. Often the book untitled *Dept. of Speculation* (Vintage Contemporaries) is a single of several books in which everyone read now. This kind of book was inspired many men and women in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new age that you ever know prior to. The author explained their thought in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily recognize the core of this book. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world within this book.

Ramiro Alvarez:

This *Dept. of Speculation* (Vintage Contemporaries) is great publication for you because the content which can be full of information for you who also always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveals it accurately using great coordinate word or we can declare no rambling sentences included. So if you are reading the item hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but tricky core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having *Dept. of Speculation* (Vintage Contemporaries) in your hand like getting the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no book that offers you world with ten or fifteen seconds right but this book already does that. So, this is certainly a good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt that?

Lavone Anderson:

The book untitled Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy technique. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was authored by famous author. The author will bring you in the new age of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice read.

John Rivera:

Reading a book make you to get more knowledge from that. You can take knowledge and information from the book. Book is published or printed or illustrated from each source that will filled update of news. In this modern era like today, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social including newspaper, magazines, science book, encyclopedia, reference book, story and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Ready to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just trying to find the Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) when you necessary it?

Download and Read Online Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) By Jenny Offill #AXI41ZQKT8F

Read Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) By Jenny Offill for online ebook

Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) By Jenny Offill Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) By Jenny Offill books to read online.

Online Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) By Jenny Offill ebook PDF download

Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) By Jenny Offill Doc

Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) By Jenny Offill MobiPocket

Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) By Jenny Offill EPub

AXI41ZQKT8F: Dept. of Speculation (Vintage Contemporaries) By Jenny Offill