



Man at the Helm

Nina Sibbe

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National Book Award Winner

Man at the Helm, the debut novel from Nina Stibbe—the much-loved author of *Love, Nina*—is a wildly comic, brilliantly sharp-eyed novel about the horrors of being an attractive divorcée in an English village in the 1970s, and a family's fall from grace....

My sister and I and our little brother were born (in that order) into a very good situation and apart from the odd new thing life was humdrum and comfortable until an evening in 1970 when my mother listened in to my father's phone call and ended up blowing her nose on a tea towel—a thing she'd only have done in an absolute emergency.

Not long after her parents' separation, heralded by an awkward scene involving a wet *Daily Telegraph* and a pan of cold eggs, nine-year-old Lizzie Vogel, her sister and little brother and their now-divorcée mother are packed off to a small, slightly hostile village in the English countryside. Their mother is all alone, only 31 years of age, with three young children and a Labrador. It is no wonder, when you put it like that, that she becomes a menace and a drunk. And a playwright.

Worried about the bad playwriting—though more about becoming wards of court and being sent to the infamous Crescent Home for Children—Lizzie and her sister decide to contact, by letter, suitable men in the area. In order to stave off the local social worker they urgently need to find a new Man at the Helm.

Nina Stibbe was born in Leicester. She is the author of the hugely acclaimed, *Love, Nina*. She now lives in Cornwall with her partner and two children. *Man at the Helm* is her first novel.

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Samuel Salamanca:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book can be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the book untitled Man at the Helm can be excellent book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

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