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# Labor Day: A Novel (P.S.)



## Synopsis

“Joyce Maynard is in top-notch form with *Labor Day*. Simply a novel you cannot miss.” —Jodi Picoult, *New York Times* bestselling author of *My Sister’s Keeper* and *Keeping Faith*

“Maynard has created an ensemble of characters that will sneak into your heart, and warm it while it breaks.” —*St. Petersburg Times*

Joyce Maynard, acclaimed author of *At Home in the World*, is back with *Labor Day*. The unforgettable story of a mother and son forever changed during a long summer weekend when a mysterious man comes into their lives. *Labor Day* is a sexy, page turning, poignant story • (Jane Hamilton, author of *A Map of the World*) that reaffirms Maynard’s reputation as a master storyteller and shows her to be a passionate humanist with a gifted ear and heart • (People)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Over the space of a Labor Day weekend in 1987, thirteen year old Henry’s life is forever changed when he and his mother meet fugitive Frank Chambers. In an odd encounter, Frank approaches Henry and judging him trustworthy, asks Henry and his mother Adele to take him home with them, and for reasons known only to them, they do. During the next few days, Frank ingratiates himself

into their lives, teaching Henry to play baseball and bake a pie, and falling in love with the quirky, depressive Adele. The three live within the cocoon of the world they create as the rest of the community searches for Frank, an escaped murderer. As the days pass, Frank's bitter story emerges; wrongly accused of murdering his wife and child, he took the first chance he got to escape, and with his gentle ways and care, he slowly brings Adele back to life and helps Henry confront his confusion over a mostly uninvolved father and a helpless mother. Written in Maynard's trademark spare style, this odd set-up somehow works its magic and pulls you in. Told from Henry's point of view, we experience all the longings of a young teen with too much responsibility. Henry is somewhat of a social outcast; his mother has burdened him with her inability to function outside her home so that he is her only lifeline to the world. Frank, a Viet Nam vet, somehow makes the three into a family in a short period of time, knowing it won't last but grasping at whatever freedom he can achieve, both from his past and his present. Henry makes both good and bad choices here; both typical and atypical, Henry's a main character filled with confusion, at the mercy of parents too concerned with themselves to worry much about him.

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