

The Sunken Cathedral

author: Kate Walbert

2026-07

Synopsis

author	Kate Walbert
readBy	Kate Walbert
inLanguage	english

From the highly acclaimed, bestselling National Book Award nominee, a “funny, beautiful, audacious, masterful” (J. Courtney Sullivan, *The Boston Globe*) novel about the way memory haunts and shapes the present. Marie and Simone, friends for decades, were once immigrants to the city, survivors of World War II in Europe. Now widows living alone in Chelsea, they remain robust, engaged, and adventurous, even as the vistas from their past interrupt their present. Helen is an art historian who takes a painting class with Marie and Simone. Sid Morris, their instructor, presides over a dusty studio in a tenement slated for condo conversion; he awakes the interest of both Simone and Marie. Elizabeth is Marie’s upstairs tenant, a woman convinced that others have a secret way of being, a confidence and certainty she lacks. She is increasingly unmoored—baffled by her teenage son, her husband, and the roles she is meant to play. In a chorus of voices, Kate Walbert, a “wickedly smart, gorgeous writer” (*The New York Times Book Review*), explores the growing disconnect between the world of action her characters inhabit and the longings, desires, and doubts they experience. Interweaving long narrative footnotes, Walbert paints portraits of marriage, of friendship, and of love in its many facets, always limning the inner life, the place of deepest yearning and anxiety. *The Sunken Cathedral* is a stunningly beautiful, profoundly wise novel about the way we live now—“fascinating, moving, and significant” (Ron Charles, *The Washington Post*).

Reader's comments

comment 1:

â€"â€" ()