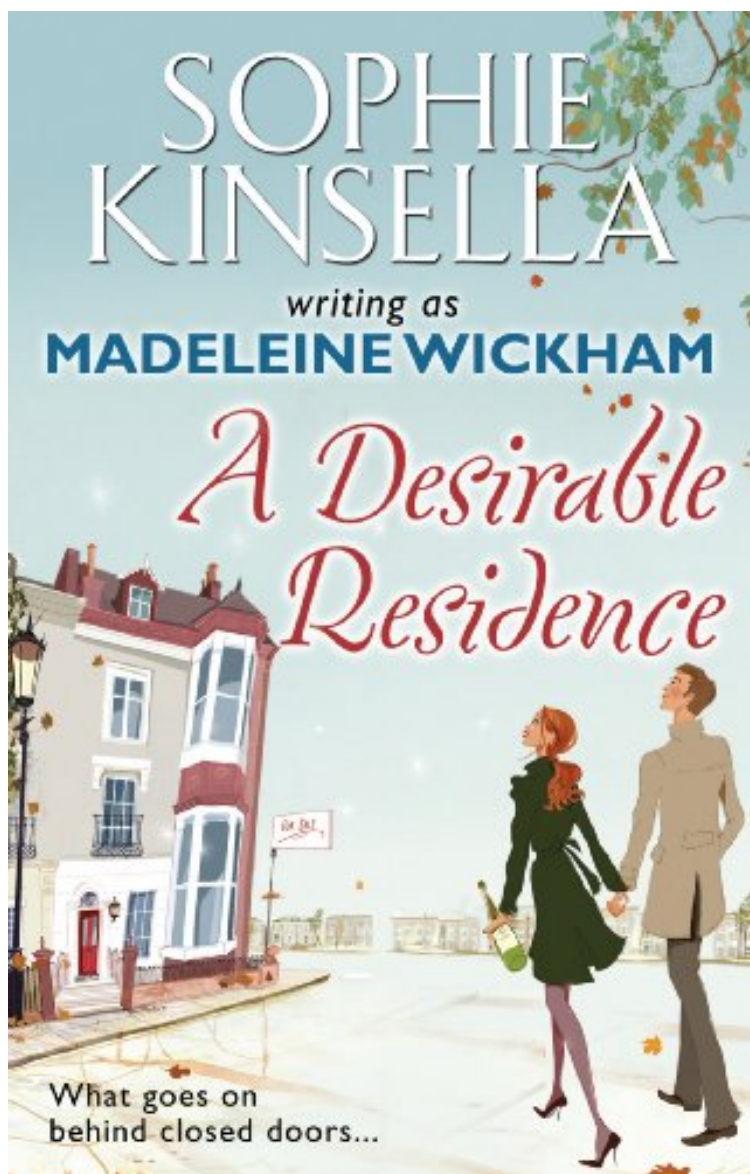


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A Desirable Residence



Par Madeleine Wickham
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Par Madeleine Wickham : A Desirable Residence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Desirable Residence:

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Description : Description du produitTucked away on a Silchester side street, the house owned by teachers Liz and Jonathan Chambers has been empty for a year. Liz, Jonathan, and their moody adolescent daughter Alice live in a dreary apartment above the private college they bought on impulse, hoping to make it a great success. To pay the mortgage they simply must sell their beloved house. Now, as debts mount, their relationship and finances are crumbling. Unlike Jonathan, who lets things happen, Liz's need to take action leads to Marcus Witherstone, driver of a Mercedes, husband of a difficult wife, and senior partner of the firm, handling the house sale. Marcus has two splendid ideas, to rent the house instead of selling it--and have an affair with Liz. And when teenage Alice becomes infatuated with the dashing out-of-work actor and his wife who lease the property, a wicked comedy of modern marriage begins...and the asking price for a house includes a stunning renovation of dreams and hearts.

Prsentation de l'diteurLiz and Jonathan are in trouble. They can't sell their old house.Here they are, stuck with two mortgages, mounting debts and a miserable adolescent daughter who hadn't wanted to move anyway. Then it seems Marcus Witherstone will solve all their problems. He knows the perfect tenants from London who will rent their old house - glamorous PR girl Ginny and almost-famous Piers. Everything is going to be OK.Or is it? As Marcus starts to become involved with Liz, while her teenage daughter develops a passion for the lodgers, it seems that some deceptions are too close to home...Everybody loves Sophie Kinsella:"I almost cried with laughter" Daily Mail"Hilarious . . . you'll laugh and gasp on every page" Jenny Colgan"Properly mood-altering . . . funny, fast and farcical. I loved it" Jojo Moyes"A superb tale. Five stars!" HeatFrom Library JournalFollowing *The Tennis Party* (LJ 3/1/96), Wickham's delightful tale of entanglements examines the manners and morals of three family units in suburban London. Teachers Liz and Jonathan Chambers have a difficult adolescent daughter, two mortgages, an old home, and a new business, Silchester Tutorial College. When real estate mogul Marcus Witherstone finds tenants for the Chambers's old house, their finances improve. However, personal entanglements create problems for Liz and Marcus, as well as for 14-year-old Alice and the tenants, Piers and Ginny. While circumventing the consequences of deceit and guilt, the main characters acknowledge and rectify mistakes, thus ensuring a satisfying completion. Recommended for popular collections. ?Ellen R. Cohen, Rockville, Md.Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.BooklistA nice property in Silchester is the common bond for a disparate cast of characters in this second novel by Wickham (*The Tennis Party*, 1996). Teachers Liz and Jonathan Chambers put the house they love on the market to finance a flagging tutorial college, for which Liz has great plans. When the house doesn't sell after months, Marcus Witherstone of Witherstone Co. steps in, first finding tenants for a rental, then starting a relationship with Liz that goes beyond business. Fourteen-year-old Alice Chambers, longing for her old house, becomes infatuated with its new tenants, property PR woman Ginny and (especially) her actor husband, Piers, who's up for a major role in a TV soap opera. Meanwhile, Marcus participates in a fraudulent scheme while his wife, Anthea, is driven with ambition for their older son Daniel's academic future, which also is aided by Jonathan. Life may not be fair, but in Wickham's capable hands, just desserts are served in a satisfying and entertaining fashion. Michele Leber