

Title: *The Scent Keeper* by Erica Bauermeister

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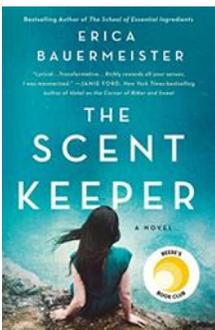
### **Why this Book?**

*The Scent Keeper* will challenge you to think about how you perceive the world through your senses and in this case, through your sense of smell. This book invites you to think of scents and smells and what significance they hold for you. Do you encounter a specific smell and feel like you've been transported into a different place and time or into a fond or negative memory? How would you feel if your favourite scents disappeared? *The Scent Keeper* is a coming-of-age story that will provoke discussion about making difficult choices, how we capture memories, how we perceive the world, what it's like to grow up in isolation and the journey of self-discovery.

### **About the Author**

Erica Bauermeister is the New York Times bestselling author of four novels: *The Scent Keeper* (a Reese's Book Club pick), *The School of Essential Ingredients*, *Joy for Beginners*, and *The Lost Art of Mixing*. Her memoir, *House Lessons*, was published by Sasquatch in March 2020. She is also the co-author of *500 Great Books by Women: A Reader's Guide*, and *Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14*. She currently lives in Port Townsend, WA with her husband and 238 wild deer.

## About the Book



Emmeline lives an enchanted childhood on a remote island with her father, who teaches her about the natural world through her senses. What he won't explain are the mysterious scents stored in the drawers that line the walls of their cabin, or the origin of the machine that creates them. As Emmeline grows, however, so too does her curiosity, until one day the inconceivable happens, and Emmeline is vaulted out into the real world—a place of love, betrayal, ambition, and revenge. To understand her past, Emmeline must unlock the clues to her identity, a quest that takes her from her isolated island all the way to the complicated world of scent branding, challenging the limits of her heart and imagination. (Excerpted from the publisher)

## Author Interview

Erica Bauermeister is interviewed about *The Scent Keeper* by William Kenower. [Watch interview \(10:43\)](#)

## Book Reviews

"Lyrical...transformative...Richly rewards all your senses. I was mesmerized." – Jamie Ford, author of *The Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*

"An artfully crafted coming-of-age-story that will take the reader on an exquisite olfactory adventure." – *Kirkus Reviews*

"Heartbreaking, thrilling; pure pleasure reading...with a heroine who might be kin to Jane Eyre." – Adrienne Harun, author of *A Man Came Out of a Door in the Mountain*

"A book to be devoured, no, to be inhaled, and held deeply." – Dave Boling, author of *The Lost History of Stars*

## Get the Book

Download *The Scent Keeper* in your preferred format:

### eBook

[OverDrive for Burlington Public Library](#)

### eAudiobook

[OverDrive for Burlington Public Library](#)

## eBook

[OverDrive for Hamilton Public Library](#)

[OverDrive for Mississauga Library](#)

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## Discussion Questions

For discussion tips & tech support: [How to Start Your Own Online Book Club](#)

1. If you could preserve one scent, what would it be?
2. What do you think the story of the Nightingale means to John? To Emmeline? Why do you think John cut it from the book?
3. Both John and Victoria have a wall of scents. What do you think they mean to each of the characters?
4. Emmeline's father strives to preserve memories through scent. Emmeline's mother uses scent to influence others. Rene is trying to recreate scents that are disappearing in the modern world. What are the ups and downsides to their actions?
5. What do you think about John's decision to take Emmeline to the island? How do you feel about their relationship?
6. At one point, Emmeline comes to understand that her father has been revealing his past through stories. What do you think he was trying to tell her?
7. Emmeline experiences the deaths of Cleo, her father, and Dodge. How does her reaction to each differ? What does each one tell us about her?
8. What role does Fisher play in Emmeline's life? How does that change?

[More discussion questions on \*The Scent Keeper\*](#)

## Read-alikes

- [Where the Crawdads Sing](#) by Delia Owens
- [The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake](#) by Aimee Bender
- [The Girl Who Fell from the Sky](#) by Heidi W. Durrow