



The Vineyard

Barbara Delinsky

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In *The Vineyard*, *New York Times* bestselling author Barbara Delinsky (*Lake News*, *Coast Road*, *Three Wishes*) has written her most complex and emotionally rewarding novel: a story of two women, a generation apart, each of whose dream becomes bound with the other's.

To her family, Natalie Seebring is a woman who prizes appearances. She is exquisitely mannered, socially adept, a supportive wife, and head of a successful wine-producing enterprise. So when she announces plans to marry a vineyard employee mere months after the death of her husband of fifty-eight years, her son and daughter are stunned. Faced with their disapproval, Natalie decides to write a memoir. There is much that her children don't know about her life -- about her love of the vineyard, her role in fighting to build it up, and the sacrifices she made for her family.

Olivia Jones is a dreamer, living vicariously through the old photographs she restores. She and her daughter, Tess, have no one but themselves, so they cling to the fantasy that a big, happy family is out there somewhere, just waiting to welcome them home. When Olivia is hired by Natalie to help with her memoir, a summer at Natalie's beautiful vineyard by the sea seems the perfect opportunity to live out that fantasy -- an elegant home by the shore, a salary that allows her to hire a tutor for her dyslexic daughter, a job that is creative, hours spent with a woman who has led a charmed life.

But all is not as it seems, Olivia and Tess discover when they arrive at Asquonset, the vineyard in Rhode Island. While welcoming, Natalie is not quite the mothering type, as is quickly evident in the hostility her daughter and son have toward her -- it's a hostility that Olivia must buffer. Another dose of stark reality comes in the form of Simon Burke, who runs the vineyard's day-to-day operation and sees in Olivia and Tess an unwelcome reminder of the wife and daughter he tragically lost. And then there is the cruel reality of Olivia's own life -- the mother who never wanted her, and a career that has floundered.

Natalie's story, intended for her own children, enlightens Olivia as well. The lives of these two women of different generations, parallel in so many ways, become, in *The Vineyard*, a powerful and moving story as the fantasy of an idealized life, complete with perfect romance, crashes headlong into reality.

The Vineyard Details

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Sandy says

excellant book. Wonderfully told story with twists and turns that will keep you reading until late into the night. Keep the tissues handy, this one will tug at your heartstrings.

Dorothy says

This one was a quick read. Olivia Jones is a single mother of 10 year old Tess. She is a photo restorer and the man she works for is retiring so by the end of July she will be without a job. Natalie Seebring is the owner of a vineyard is wanting someone to come help write her life story. Olivia applies and she and Tess move to upper Rhode Island to work for Natalie. The story then is Natalie's story and current happenings.

Melissa says

This was a lovely book. Had history, love, friendships etc. A little predictable but all in all, a solid read.

Lynn says

I enjoy Barbara Delinsky's books. This is was another good story. Relationships and info about growing grapes to make wine ?. Cheers.

Debbie Tanguay says

single mom summer job changes her life-good

Judy Churchill says

I really loved this book. Published in 2000, this was an enchanting story with a complex plot. Set in a Rhode Island vineyard and winery, the story revolves around a 76 year old widow of six months sending wedding invitations to her adult children. As the drama begins, her children express outrage and the revelations begin. Sensitive and honest. It's worth a read.

Wendy says

Asquonset Vineyard, Rhode Island. Six months after the death of her husband of 58 years, Natalie Seebring

announces her intentions to marry Carl Burke, a man she's known since childhood, a man who's been her vineyard manager for the past 35 years. Naturally, Natalie's grown children, Susanne and Greg, are shocked and disturbed by the sudden news. Natalie decides to hire someone for the summer to help write her memoirs in time for her Labor Day wedding. She hopes her story will explain to her children what she's been through in her 76 years and what she's feeling now.

At 35, Olivia Jones is a single mother working hard to provide for her 10-year-old daughter Tess. Olivia knows art and photography. She's been doing photo restoration for Natalie Seebring for months, although they've never met. Through her work, Olivia has grown very attached to the Seebring family. She can only imagine what each family member is like and imagines herself as a Seebring herself. She jumps at the job offer to work at the vineyard for the summer. The pay will be more than enough to hire tutors to help Tess with her dyslexia.

With Olivia at her side, pen in hand, Natalie's story of love, heartache, struggle and perseverance slowly unfolds, revealing a few secrets along the way.

Meanwhile, Olivia is searching for her own mother as well as dealing with Carl's son, Simon, now the vineyard manager. Simon lost his wife and daughter 4 years ago in a sailing accident and having Olivia around with young Tess only stirs up the pain he's worked so hard to bury.

This is truly a story so well told that you laugh at times and cry at others. There's so much detail on a variety of topics. The reader learns a bit about growing grapes, sailing, hurricanes, the Great Depression and World War II. Each character is so well-written, I feel that if I were ever in Rhode Island, I could simply drive up and pay the Seebrings a visit. Great people book.

Sharon says

Chick lit at its finest. So many good details, families torn asunder, single mom with problem child, aloof and arrogant vineyard manager, hurricanes, you name it, it happens in this book. Natalie Seebring announces plans to marry her vineyard manager, a couple of months after the death of her husband of 58 years. Needless to say, her children are in a tizzy, thinking she's being disloyal and wondering why she wants to marry again in the first place and taking it the next step and suspecting she's been having an affair for years. Olivia Jones is a photo restorer, she's been restoring photos from Natalie's life and occasionally fantasizing that Natalie is her grandmother. So when Natalie hires Olivia for the summer to write her life story, Olivia couldn't be happier. Olivia brings her daughter Tess. Olivia is working very hard to support Tess and trying to figure out a way to afford better schooling for her and support for her special needs. Now they are both embroiled in the vineyard family which seems to be imploding daily with staff upset about the impending marriage and leaving in droves. Natalie's children are refusing to attend the wedding. But wait, there's a light at the end of the tunnel

Sylvia Dugan says

I was more annoyed by the character Olivia Jones than sympathetic to her with her imaginings and feeling sorry for herself. I liked Natalie and the Simon and Carl, but felt the story was a bit too manipulative.

Lydia Stewart says

This book just did not captivate me whatsoever, nor did it interest me. It was very boring and hard for me to keep reading so I stopped altogether.

Glenda says

I am a fan of Barbara Delinsky, but I didn't like this one as well as others of hers I have read. Pretty predictable and "fluffy" but I read it quickly. I did learn a lot about grapes and wine making, which was interesting. Not a bad book, just not too gripping.

Arlene says

My first book of Barbara Delinsky. Read it as an e-book and I found so many typo errors.

Ann says

didn't keep my interest....

Diane Staman says

Just a good comfort book with enough intrigue to keep turning the pages. I love anything vineyard life and this was satisfying

Heidi says

The Vineyard was my first book by Barbara Delinsky. My mother brought it to me after she read it herself since the setting is a vineyard. My husband and I love wine and drink a glass with most of our evening meals so she thought this book would appeal to me. She was right.

I loved the setting of the Rhode Island vineyard of Asquonset. The descriptions of the Great House had me wishing I could really go there.

Olivia is a photo restorer who needs to find a new job. Her boss has decided to retire and is closing down his business. She discovers a letter among the mail in the office one day asking her boss Otis for any referral he has for someone to come to Asquonset for the summer to help the owner Natalie write her memoir. Olivia convinces Otis that she is the person for the job. It will give her the summer to look for a job and a school for her daughter Tess who is dyslexic. Natalie not only gives Olivia the job but arranges for Tess to have a tutor, a tennis coach and sailing lessons at the local yacht club.

Olivia falls easily into her role but does not plan on confronting her feelings when she meets Simon who in charge of the vines. Simon is Carl's son. Carl is going to be marrying Natalie that summer. But Natalie's own children have something to say about the situation with their father only being dead for six months...if only they knew Natalie's real story.

A sweet love story definitely to be enjoyed with a glass of a tasty vintage.
