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# Before I Met You

By Lisa Jewell

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An uplifting, warm and unforgettable story of two women in two different times from the Sunday Times Top Ten bestselling author Betty Dean can't wait to leave her quiet upbringing in Guernsey and begin her mission to find Clara Pickle - the mysterious beneficiary in her grandmother's will. She arrives in grungy, 1990s Soho, ready for whatever life has to throw at her. Or so she thinks...As Betty searches for Clara, she is taken on a journey through her grandmother, Arlette's, extraordinary life in 1920s bohemian London, uncovering a tale of love, loss and heartbreak amidst the hedonistic world of the Bright Young People. Will the secrets of Arlette's past help Betty on her path to happiness? This recording is unabridged. Typically abridged audiobooks are not more than 60% of the author's work and as low as 30% with characters and plotlines removed.

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## Before I Met You By Lisa Jewell Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In Jewell's (After the Party) novel, Betty Dean spent her childhood on the Channel Island of Guernsey dreaming of bigger and better things in London, but she stayed there well into her 20s to care for her ailing grandmother, Arlette. When Arlette dies, Betty's family discovers that she has left a large sum of money to a woman named Clara Pickle at a London address. Nobody in the family has heard of Clara, and what's more, Arlette always claimed to hate the big city. Naturally, Betty jumps at the chance go to London in search of Clara. Though she ends up paying too much for her Soho flat and working a menial job, Betty feels like her life is finally beginning. She strikes up a friendship with rock legend Dom Jones—who just happens to be her neighbor—and gets a gig babysitting his children to supplement her income. As clues lead her closer to the mysterious Clara Pickle, Betty starts to uncover a chapter of proper, taciturn Arlette's life that she never imagined possible—complete with a tragic love story. Told in chapters that alternate between 1919–21 and 1995, Jewell unfolds each detail of Arlette's secret past with impeccable timing. Although the final reveal is a little convoluted, Arlette's tragedy juxtaposed with Betty's journey to maturity and stability takes readers to emotional highs and lows alike. (Oct.)

From [Booklist](#)

Jewell's many fans should eagerly embrace this story about two different women living in two different times whose lives converge in the most unexpected way. When she is a child, Betty first meets Arlette, her mother's boyfriend's mother, and is instantly swept away by the glamorous 84-year-old in red silk shoes and full-length mink coat. When Betty is 22, Arlette dies. Her will unfolds a mystery that grips Betty, who starts off with a hunt for an unknown recipient of Arlette's bequest. The story bounces back and forth between Betty's 1990s London and Arlette's flapper-era London, the lives of both women slowly unfurling as Jewell keeps the pace steady, the plot intriguing, and the characters highly relatable. Family dynamics, the search for love and personal meaning, and the simple yet evocative daily motions of each woman keep the pages turning. Sure to be a popular title. --Julie Trevelyan

Review

'Beautiful, moving and unputdownable' JOJO MOYES 'Jewell has completely upped her game with this beautifully observed novel' HEAT on The Making of Us

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Solomon Pepper:**

The actual book Before I Met You will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book you just read, this book very suitable to you. The book Before I Met You is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

**Jennifer Galaviz:**

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**Danna Bullock:**

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**Sophia Hardee:**

A lot of people said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose the actual book Before I Met You to make your current reading is interesting. Your skill of reading proficiency is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the feeling about book and examining especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to open a book and learn it. Beside that the guide Before I Met You can to be your brand-new friend when you're sense alone and confuse using what must you're doing of these time.

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