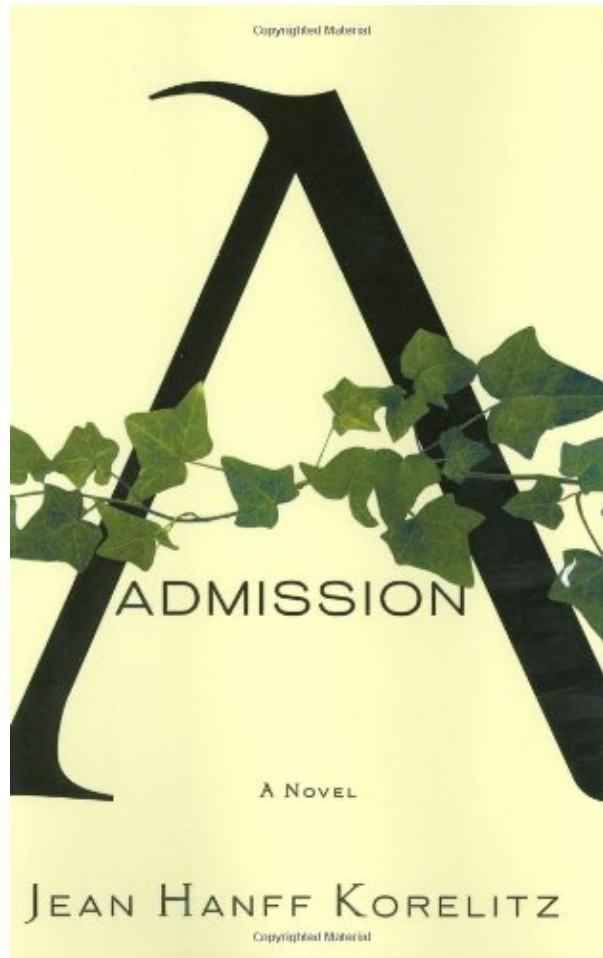


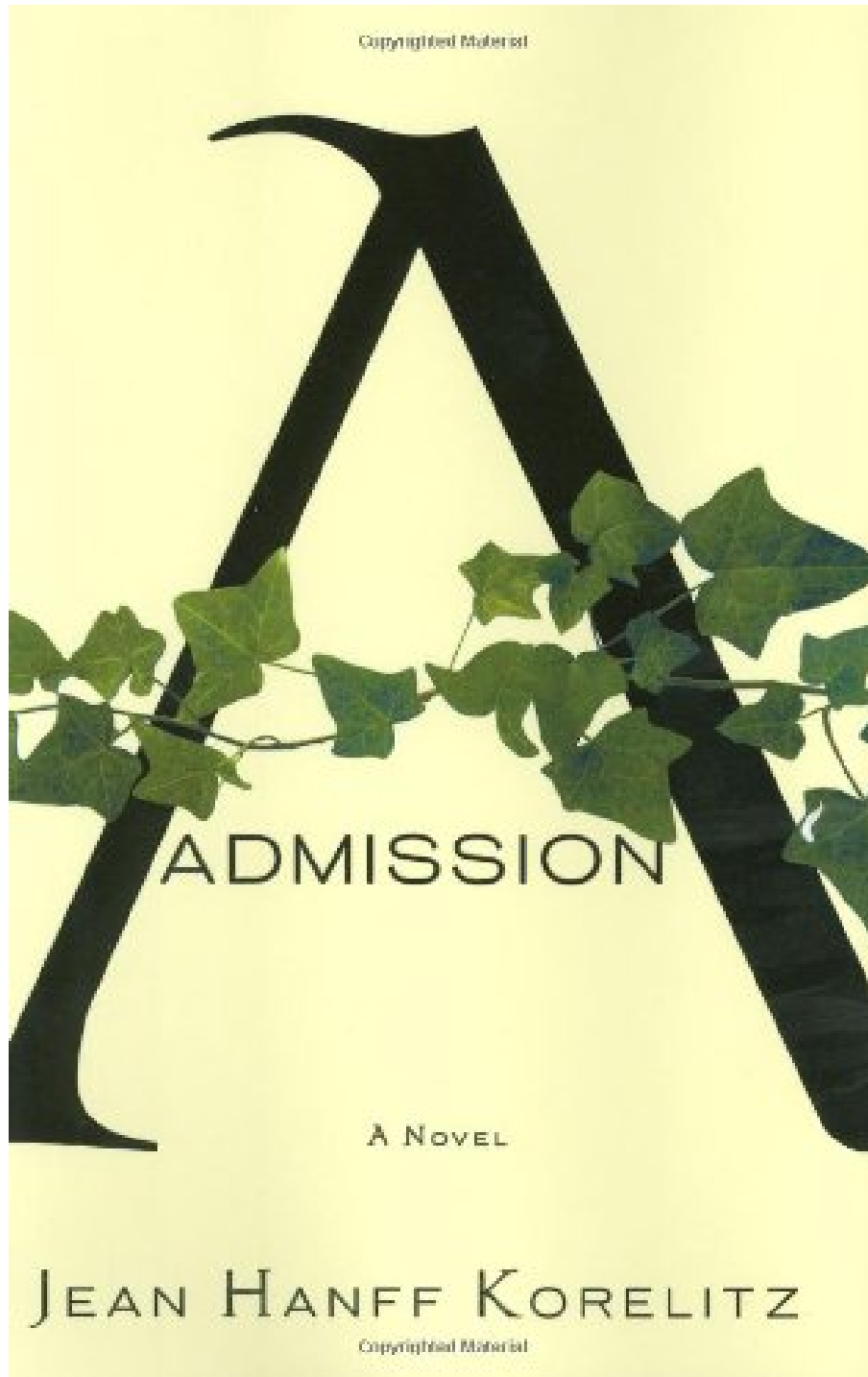
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From Publishers Weekly

Portia Nathan, the overly dedicated 38-year-old Princeton admissions officer, narrator of Korelitz's overthought fourth novel, finds purpose in her gatekeeper role. But her career and conscience are challenged after she visits a down-at-the-heels New England town on a scouting trip and meets Jeremiah, a talented but rough-around-the-edges 17-year-old who maybe doesn't measure up as Princeton material. The real rub is how making his acquaintance forces Portia to confront a painful secret from her past that ties into some domestic discord with her professor friend, David, and may lead her into a career-endangering fracas with the admissions board. The narrative is slow out of the gate, though it gets some pep once the Jeremiah-Portia angle comes into focus. And even if Portia tends to ruminate in an precious way, Korelitz makes good use of the sociological issues tied up in elite university admissions. (Apr.)

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"Admissions. Admission. Aren't there two sides to the word? And two opposing sides...It's what we let in, but it's also what we let out."

For years, 38-year-old Portia Nathan has avoided the past, hiding behind her busy (and sometimes punishing) career as a Princeton University admissions officer and her dependable domestic life. Her reluctance to confront the truth is suddenly overwhelmed by the resurfacing of a life-altering decision, and Portia is faced with an extraordinary test. Just as thousands of the nation's brightest students await her decision regarding their academic admission, so too must Portia decide whether to make her own ultimate admission.

Admission is at once a fascinating look at the complex college admissions process and an emotional examination of what happens when the secrets of the past return and shake a woman's life to its core.

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

It's okay

By Kay w.

It's very long & not like the movie.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A good story

By teachermissy

I began this book initially interested in the admissions process. I really enjoyed the first section that focused mainly on Portia's work and dealing with students. My interest waned a little when it started to get into her personal life, because I felt it was distracting me from what I really wanted to know. However, as I continued, I found I really enjoyed how the two parts of her life worked together to complete the story. While I did predict some of the plot, I was surprised by enough of it to keep reading. I did feel that parts of the book would be well serviced by some good editing; some points were really driven into the ground. All in all, I really enjoyed this book.

5 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting, well-written, but implausible

By Roni Jordan

I enjoyed Jean Hanff Korelitz's "The White Rose" immensely, and was equally intrigued by the college setting and plot premise of this book. And because I do enjoy her writing and have enormous respect for the earnestness with which she researched and portrays the college admission process, I was captivated by those portions of the book dealing with Portia's professional life. There came a point however, about midway into the book, where the growing cast of stereotypical characters and wildly improbable plot twists sank this from a 5-star to a less enthusiastic 3-star review. Susannah, a mother so wrapped up in saving the world that she's oblivious to her own daughter's plight. John Halsey, the sensitive, well-bred, but oh-so-well-meaning and sexy former Dartmouth classmate with whom Portia is reunited on her visit to the Quest School. And so on. And Portia has a secret - we know that early on, as it is referred to in vague references when she meets John, and it surfaces again with growing glints of clarity as the novel progresses, finally bursting forth like the penultimate episode of a Lifetime melodrama. My empathy for Portia evaporated at that point, and I finished the book feeling angry and annoyed with the implausible plot line and tidy feel-good denouement.

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