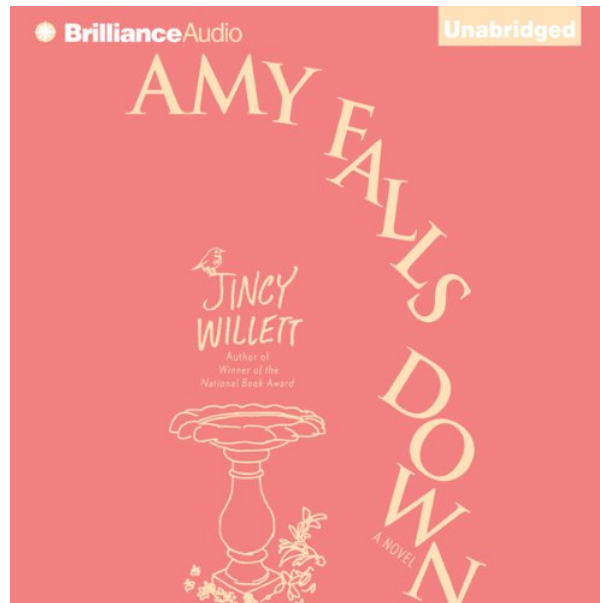
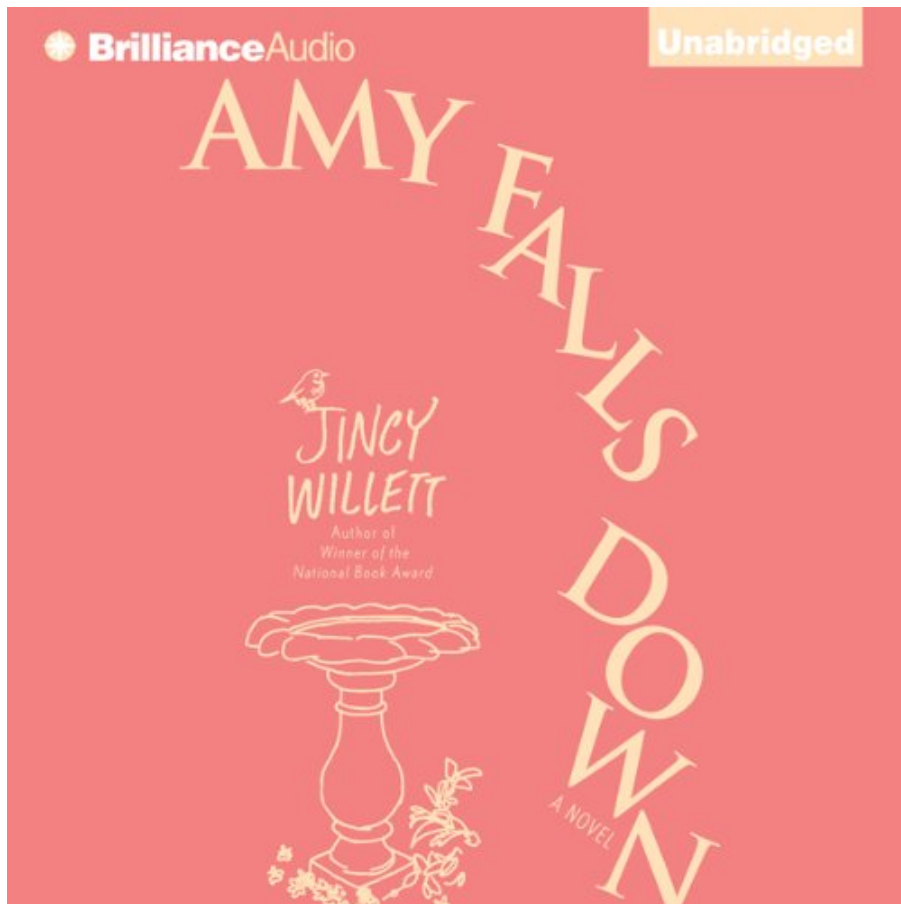


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AMY FALLS DOWN: A NOVEL BY JINCY WILLETT PDF

Audie Award Finalist, Literary Fiction, 2014

Amy Gallup is an aging novelist and writing instructor living in Escondido, California, with her dog, Alphonse. Since recent unsettling events, she has made some progress. While she still has writer's block, she doesn't suffer from it. She's still a hermit, but she has allowed some of her class members into her life. She is no longer numb, angry, and sardonic: she is merely numb and bemused, which is as close to happy as she plans to get. Amy is calm.

So, when on New Year's morning she shuffles out to her backyard garden to plant a Norfolk pine, she is wholly unprepared for what happens next. Amy falls down. A simple accident, as a result of which something happens, and then something else, and then a number of different things, all as unpredictable as an eight-ball break. At first the changes are small, but as these small events carom off one another, Amy's life changes in ways that range from ridiculous to frightening to profound. This most reluctant of adventurers is dragged and propelled by train, plane, and automobile through an outlandish series of antic media events on her way to becoming - to her horror - a kind of celebrity. And along the way, as the numbness begins to wear off, she comes up against something she has avoided all her life: her future, that "sleeping monster, not to be poked."

Amy Falls Down explores, through the experience of one character, the role that accident plays in all our lives. "You turn a corner and beasts break into arias, gunfire erupts, waking a hundred families, starting a hundred different conversations. You crack your head open and three thousand miles away a stranger with Asperger's jump-starts your career." We are all like Amy. We are all wholly unprepared for what happens next. Also, there's a basset hound.

- Sales Rank: #86694 in Audible
- Published on: 2013-07-09
- Released on: 2013-07-09
- Format: Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Running time: 632 minutes

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6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Wonderful sequel

By kb from la

Amy Falls Down is a sequel of sorts to an earlier book, *The Writing Class*, featuring the same cast of characters. The first book is a mystery of the Ten Little Indians variety and this is a darkly comic novel, but both are really books about being a writer in 21st century America. Willett's protagonist is Amy Grubman, who had early success with serious fiction but hasn't written for decades. She leads a hermit-like existence in a suburb of San Diego, existing by teaching extension classes in creative writing.

Amy is a wonderful character, embracing her cranky solitude, playing mind games with herself and very reluctantly acting as mentor to a group of writing students. Although not written in the first person, the entire narrative takes place inside Amy's head and much of it is a commentary on what it means to be an artist in today's world of relentless hype and self promotion. The Writing Class was something of a meditation on creativity, isolation and the possibilities for real and illusory community building via the internet. In Amy Falls Down there is a lot more action.

After "the fall" and consequent concussion, Amy gives an interview and is suddenly engulfed by a resurgent career that from her perspective feels like a farcical accident. Suddenly writing after decades of no output, she is propelled into the world of professional fiction by her wonderfully witchy agent Maxine. Richocheting from radio interviews to writers panels to tv talk shows, this ultimate introvert reluctantly emerges as a star. Willetts uses Amy's resurgent career to comment with dark sarcasm on today's writing scene. The book is both funny and touching because we travel with Amy back to the central tragedy of her life and forward to a new beginning. Wonderfully written and absolutely engaging.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Publishing, a Comedy

By Yours Truly

This delightful tale reminded me how little good satire there is in American literature these days and how difficult it is to pull off. Certainly, the publishing industry is ripe for this kind of treatment. Nobody, of course, would pay a long-silent author to go on the road to promote her backlist, but it makes a hilarious premise, and Jincy Willett pulls it off. Amy, the writer, is happy in her cluttered California home with her hound dog, and when she hits her head while gardening, the phobic Amy just pulls on a wig and follows through with a scheduled post-concussive interview with a journalist.

What transpires certainly gets her noticed. Not only is her writer's block lifted, she says exactly what she thinks about a variety of topics, and her sardonic agent jumps on the opportunity. Soon, she's on a junket back east for a number of engagements. She does radio interviews, book store appearances, literary panels—the whole spectrum of events we employ to spur book sales these days. And because she's so candid, she's a big hit. Like many contemporary writers, she's been teaching creative writing to earn a living, but the jaunt gives her a break from her students, and it gives her students an opportunity to develop on their own.

Willett gives Amy just enough depth to be sympathetic. I won't spill her backstory, but there's a good one, and if you care about publishing, you'll be entertained.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Once in love with Amy

By S. Zendzian

I have to admit that writing a review of this book makes me feel very self-conscious about writing a review of anything. I read this after I stumbled upon 'The Writing Class', which I absolutely loved. Matter of fact, I downloaded all of Jincy Willett's work because of 'The Writing Class'. And I still intend to read all of it. But this one, all about the neurotic, 'eccentric' Amy Gallup we came to know and love as the washed up, worn out, cynical adjunct writing teacher may be too much of a good thing. I'm not sure I wanted to know Amy as well and as intimately as she is presented here. I liked her thoughts about her students' attempts as writers, and her interactions with them. There isn't as much 'action' in this book as the last, and page after page about what Amy is thinking or obsessing about made me a little impatient - I wanted something to happen. Here and there, things do happen, interesting, consequential things. And Amy's thoughts about writing and the publishing/writing industry are certainly food for thought and/or discussion. But bottom line it was not as good - or as fun - a read as 'The Writing Class'. I'm looking forward to another Amy book, and hope one is in

the works!

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