



The Next Thing on My List: A Novel

By Jill Smolinski

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“You’ll be hooked by this charming story. . . . Smolinski gives us a quick-witted heroine . . . with just the right amount of romance and a tad of suspense.”

—*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

After a car accident in which her passenger, Marissa, dies, June Parker finds herself in possession of a list Marissa has written: “20 Things to Do by My 25th Birthday.” The tasks range from inspiring (run a 5K) to daring (go braless) to near-impossible (change someone’s life).

To assuage her guilt, June races to achieve each goal herself before the deadline, learning more about her own life than she ever bargained for.

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The Next Thing on My List: A Novel By Jill Smolinski **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Smolinski follows up her debut, *Flip-Flopped*, with an airy, hit and mostly miss novel about one rudderless woman's accidental journey of self-discovery. After a Weight Watchers meeting, narrator June Parker offers a ride home to newly svelte Marissa Jones, and the two hit it off until Marissa dies in a nasty one-car accident. When June runs into Marissa's hot brother at the cemetery six months after the crash, she makes a rash promise to carry out the dead girl's list of 20 things to do before she turned 25 (even though June is 34). The challenges that follow—running a 5K, kissing a stranger, "dare to go braless"—serve less to improve June's life than to highlight how unfortunate it is that she's taken up a stranger's goals instead of her own. Smolinski's Los Angeles is a well-executed set—June tilts at windmills as a writer for a ride-sharing nonprofit—but the most human characters in it are June's tyrannical and calculating boss and her secretly sensitive, underused brother. Though completing the list is a transformative experience for June, the leadup fizzles.

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From [Booklist](#)

June Parker's life is meandering along until a freak car accident leaves Marissa, her 24-year-old passenger, dead and June wracked with guilt. June discovers a list Marissa had been keeping of 25 things she wanted to do by the time she turned 25. After a run-in with Marissa's brother, June resolves to complete the list. Kissing a total stranger and throwing away her scale prove far easier than pitching an idea at work or changing someone's life. But June approaches the list with aplomb, daring to speak up about being passed over for a manager position, and becoming a Big Sister to a quiet, studious Latina teen named DeeDee. But when June uncovers a secret of DeeDee's, she realizes changing someone else's life might involve changing her own as well. Clever and winning, Smolinski's novel will have readers rooting for June as they eagerly turn the pages to keep up with her progress on the list. *Kristine Huntley*

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Review

"Fresh and fun to read . . . The details of [June's] life are set out with a deft, light touch."

—*Boston Globe*

"Clever and winning, Smolinski's novel will have readers rooting for June as they eagerly turn the pages to keep up with her progress on the list."

—Booklist

"Smolinski crafts a believable heroine, and her chipper *carpe-diem* message may have readers devising their own Top 20s. . . . Sweet."

—Kirkus Reviews

"Cheers for Jill Smolinski, who has transcended the chick lit category by giving us a heroine who really tries to make a difference in this world. What a concept! I loved this book- its humor and its humanity. You will, too."

—Jane Heller, author of *Some Nerve* and *Lucky Stars*

"Instantly engaging, original, and funny, Jill Smolinski's new novel charmed me from the first page. Put this on your list: you won't be sorry!"

– Isabel Rose, author of *The J.A.P. Chronicles*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Malissa Conlin:

The actual book The Next Thing on My List: A Novel has a lot associated with on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. The writer makes some research previous to write this book. This book very easy to read you may get the point easily after scanning this book.

Daniel Evans:

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