

AN IMPERFECTION IN THE KITCHEN FLOOR

BY LOCAL AUTHOR
HEATHER GREENLEAF

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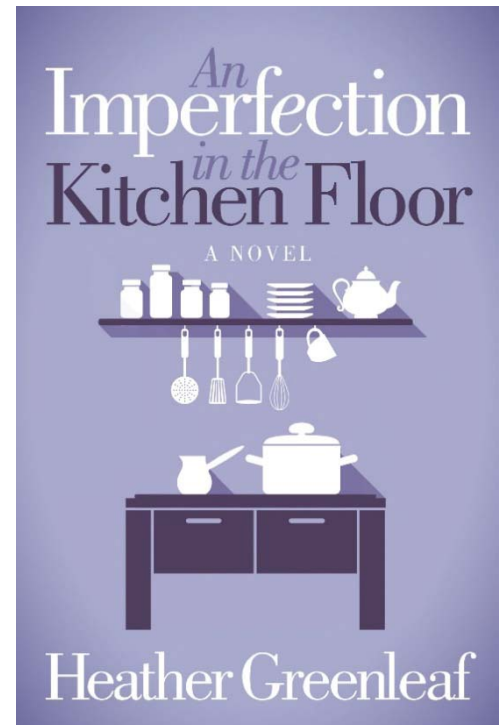
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An Imperfection in the Kitchen Floor tells the story of two women who, despite living one hundred years apart, face similar sacrifices, difficult decisions, and self-imposed perfection that many women will recognize in their own lives.

Molly moves to an old house that only her husband loves, giving up her job, apartment and, when the baby is born, her autonomy. Her husband's busy work schedule leaves her as the sole caregiver of their colicky baby, and Molly must reconcile her own self-doubt and find happiness in a life she didn't expect.

Tish lives in the same house a century earlier and yearns to leave behind the family delicatessen to travel west and paint the country's landscape. When a commuter train crashes killing the riders on board, the tragedy hits close to home and Tish must choose between the family who needs her and the life she originally envisioned.



An Imperfection in the Kitchen Floor
is a novel about
family, food, and fortitude.



Heather has a degree in Art History from the George Washington University and a degree in Culinary Arts from the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College. She has worked as a private chef and has written continuously running food columns in the Harlem Times, on Patch.com, and bonedo.com. She currently works as an Exhibitions Manager, handling various art and science exhibitions as they travel to museums. In her free time, Heather is the Archivist for the Upper Moreland Historical Association. She lives in a historic home in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania with her husband, two young children, an old cat named Bananas, and a puppy named Pennsylvania. *An Imperfection in the Kitchen Floor* is her debut novel.

INFORMATION SHEET

An Imperfection in the Kitchen Floor

By Heather Greenleaf

Morgan James Publishing

ISBN 9781683506638

238 pages

Paperback 9x6"

Barcoded

\$16.95

Release Date of May 15, 2018

SELECTED UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, May 12th 7:00pm Launch Party
Loft at MaGerks
307 Horsham Road, Horsham PA
- Thursday, May 17th 5:30pm Book Signing Happy Hour
Willow Inn
201 N. York Road, Willow Grove PA
- Tuesday, May 22nd 7:30pm Historical Presentation
Upper Moreland Historical Association
117 Park Avenue, Willow Grove PA
- Thursday, May 24th 5:00pm Historical Presentation
Historical Society of Montgomery County
1654 DeKalb Street, Norristown PA
- Saturday, May 26th 1:00pm Book Signing
Barnes and Noble
102 Park Avenue, Willow Grove PA
- Sunday, June 10th 2:00pm Historical Presentation
Upper Moreland Library
109 Park Avenue, Willow Grove PA
- Thursday, June 21st 6:00pm Happy Hour with the Historian
Graeme Park
859 County Line Road, Horsham PA
- Tuesday, July 31st 7:00pm Historical Presentation
Upper Dublin Library
805 Loch Alsh Avenue, Fort Washington PA

AUTHOR Q&A

1. What was your inspiration for writing this book?

In 2008 we moved into a historic house in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. I was interested in the home's history, and after some initial deed research, I began thinking about the people who originally lived there and what their stories might be. A little digging at the local archives unearthed the story of the train crash, and a lot of Willow Grove Park history, which helped frame the story.

2. What is your background in culinary arts?

I have a degree in Culinary Arts from the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College in Philadelphia. There, I was able to take culinary and pastry classes, and explore classic cooking methods firsthand on an eating tour of France. After graduating, I earned my Certified Specialist of Wine certificate and worked as a private chef. I taught culinary classes for kids, hoping to inspire their love of cooking, and wrote restaurant review columns for multiple publications.

3. Do you also have a degree in art?

I have a degree in Art History from the George Washington University in Washington DC. It was a great place to study because DC has such amazing art museums and collections that we were encouraged to study first hand. In addition to that course work, I took an amazing hands-on class in classic artistic methods. We painted Egyptian watercolors, Renaissance egg tempera panels, and Impressionist oils to really understand the time periods, techniques, and the materials available. I also minored in German, and spent six months studying at the University of Freiburg. All of my classes there were in German and my roommates were German, which truly immersed me in the culture.

4. How did you do your research for the book?

Well, for Molly, I had two ornery babies two years apart! Just as one began to sleep through the night, the other arrived. Without a good night's rest for about four years straight, I was able to depict Molly's story without too much further research. For Tish, I used the extensive archives and digital newspapers available at the Upper Moreland Historical Association. They have so many old photographs and maps that I could easily imagine Tish in a location. Also, I live in the house that is the main setting, so it was easy to put both characters right there.

5. How similar is the Willow Grove described in your book to the current day Willow Grove?

Very! Though, some of the places in Tish's story are lost to history. The Oyster House and Rothwell's Drug Store were once downtown, but they have been replaced by other businesses. Willow Grove Park is now the Willow Grove Mall. The train crash site is accessible on a walking trail through the Pennypack Ecological Trust, but Hess's Delicatessen is a figment of my imagination, as is Mr. Howerth's barber shop.

6. How about your characters? Are they real historical figures?

All the characters that exist in Molly's Willow Grove are fictional. Most of the people in Tish's era of Willow Grove are fictional also, but Reginald Ferguson, the housing developer, existed, as well as O.E.C. Robinson, the founder of the Public Spirit newspaper. Mr. Rothwell also was real, as was his pharmacy and general store.

7. Did you consider alternate endings?

No, I knew I wanted Tish to wind up single at the end of the story, so I explored how that might come to be. Also, I wanted a happy ending for Molly and Corey, so I had to find a way for that to be.

8. How did you come up with the title?

*My husband came up with it. We were at the dinner table after the kids had finished and left to go play. He and I stayed, refilled our wine glasses, and threw out lots of possibilities. Finally, he landed on *An Imperfection in the Kitchen Floor* and we both loved it.*

9. You write about Molly's difficulty with being a new mother. What did you find to be the most difficult thing about being a new mother?

For me, the hardest part was how much I expected of myself. The day-to-day reality of having a newborn was totally different than the idyllic idea of a sweet snuggly baby. Motherhood was much harder than I expected it to be: both draining and mind-numbing at the same time. It's hard not to judge yourself for the frustration that inevitably arises. I expected myself to be perfect at motherhood, and I wasn't. I wish more women were honest about how difficult it is, to remove the stigma some new mothers might feel about finding it difficult.

10. Who are your favorite authors?

*I adore anything and everything by Kate Morton, Carol Goodman, and Beth Gutcheon. I re-read Beth Gutcheon's *More Than You Know* about once a year. It is creepy and intriguing, and I love it more each time. I also adore Pat Conroy and the way he portrays family and the south. I have read everything of his, even his cookbook, and wish he would write more.*

11. What's next?

I have been thinking a lot about Robin, Corey's mother, and what her story might be. I'd like to find a way to understand her, see the good in her. It is all just percolating right now, but my editor says that is the best way to allow a story to come through!