

MARTHA SEARS WEST

Love Me On Purpose: Book 7 in Hetty Series

Martha Sears West, author



Both a standalone young adult romance and an offshoot of the wholesome Hetty series, *Love Me on Purpose* details the awkward reunion of childhood friends who realize that their devoted affection has grown into adult love. Sears West shifted the series to focus on Hetty's beloved daughter in the sixth book, 2020's *It's Me, Pippa!*, which chronicled the adventures of an irrepressible nine-year-old. Now 18, Philippa "Pippa" Morgenthal returns home from college to find that her adoring best friend, 16-year-old Alfonse "Val" Ostler, has morphed from gawky boy into a manly figure not unlike the chiseled comic strip hero Prince Valiant, whose noble derring-do inspired her to bestow the nickname on him.

Like Austen's Emma Woodhouse, Pippa is an incorrigible matchmaker who views herself as above the fray, cushioned by her family's fortune and a persuasive charisma. But in the spring of 1979, she finds herself following in Hetty's footsteps, tormented by a perfect companion who's right at hand—and just out of reach. Sears West illuminates Pippa and Val's thorny family trees, whose roots were intertwined by their grandfathers' friendship, catching up readers new and old on their eccentric upbringing and why most outsiders view them as kin. The spunky, confident girl and thoughtful, protective boy aren't related, but their close proximity and complementary personalities created an intense bond, especially when Val took on the role of chaperone to the impetuous beauty.

With kinetic line drawings over bold blocks of fluid paint, Sears West's illustrations perfectly compliment her lively storytelling and traditionalist morality. The obvious sparks of their adolescent attraction result in communication misfires and painful misunderstandings until Pippa and Val can prove that it's no fleeting passion. The anodyne made-for-each-other romance *Love Me on Purpose* celebrates the solid stability of commitment, and the joy of recognizing your soulmate in the boy next door.