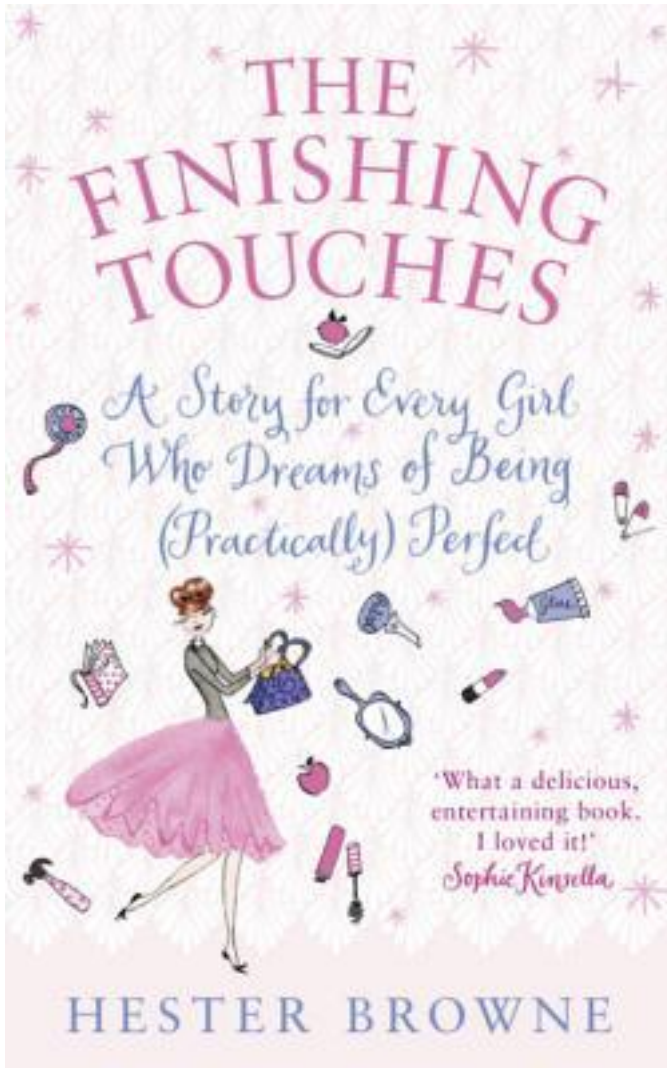


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**Hester Browne**

**The Finishing Touches**



Title: The Finishing Touches

Author: Hester Browne

Format:

Language:

Pages: 373

Publisher: Hodder, 1446293400

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## Description

In *New York Times* bestselling author Hester Browne's delightful new novel, a fading English finishing school is about to get a twenty-first-century makeover. Out with white gloves and flower arranging, in with managing mortgages and do-it-yourself manicures! Behind this remarkable transformation is business-savvy Betsy Phillimore, with her own unique connection to London's esteemed Phillimore Academy for Young Ladies....

Twenty-seven years ago, an infant turned up on the Academy's doorstep, with a note tacked to her blanket by an elegant golden brooch -- *Please take care of my baby. I want her to grow up to be a proper lady.* Loved by Lady Frances Phillimore and her kindhearted staff, Betsy grew up aspiring to be an Academy girl. But when Franny and her husband, Lord Phillimore, advise Betsy to instead hone her considerable math skills at college, she brokenheartedly leaves behind the only family she's known.

Now, on the sad occasion of Lady Frances's memorial service, Betsy comes back to find the school in disrepair, the enrollment down, and Lord P. desperate to save his legacy. Enter Betsy, the numbers genius, and her business plan -- to replace dusty protocol with the essentials girls need today: *cell phone etiquette, eating sushi properly, handling credit cards, choosing the perfect little black dress, negotiating a pre-nup,* and other lessons in independent living.

But Betsy may have bitten off more than she can chew. Can she win over the school's snobby headmistress and its handsome but risk-averse treasurer? Returning to London also means facing her own unfinished business, as she crosses paths with her sexy girlhood crush...and blowing the dust off clues to a lifelong mystery: who were her parents, and why did they abandon her? If knowledge is power, Betsy is on the brink of truly becoming her own woman, and embracing the one thing she's wanted all along: a place to call home.

A bittersweet journey of laughter and tears, *The Finishing Touches* will have you gleefully turning pages through dinner with elbows on the table -- bad manners, perhaps, but excusable for one utterly irresistible read.

## Insightful reviews

Ms. Smartarse: I really liked [The Little Lady Agency](#) series, so I was quite excited to read a new book by [Hester Browne](#).

The story starts out quite similarly to [The Little Lady Agency](#), a girl from a noble family has had a traditional upbringing, that she hasn't really made use of. Until now, when she needs to remember all her skills ASAP, to save her home, the finishing school. As a bonus feature: our heroine was adopted, and clues point to her mother having been a student at the school. So obviously this "helping out" business is not entirely selfless...

If you enjoyed Melissa's advice in manners, you'll love this in *The Finishing Touches*. It is chock

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full of them; as a matter of fact every chapter has a subtitle that constitutes little tips and tricks which help a lady "get that perfect finish".

Story-wise, I was somewhat disappointed.

[\(view spoiler\)](#).

It's a good beach read, if there's nothing juicier at hand.  
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Agi: I am a little torn. It was not a bad book, just it was not my type of book at all. The theme didn't interest me, the searching for the mother was lacking in action for me, the narration was maybe nice but didn't awake any interest. I was not curious what is going to happen next. I felt there is nothing going to happen, and actually that's true. I was expecting a little more, a little drama perhaps, what with the mistress of the school planning something or stealing money...OK, I guess it is not this book's fault, it's just... me:) You know, like in: it's not you, it's me. Maybe it was not boring, but I was bored. I think I won't take any advantage of any of the good tips at the beginning of each chapter. I can't say a bad word about the writing and the characters themselves, because here everything is the best, fluent and very intelligent, although I couldn't warm to any of the characters (well, maybe Jamie:))) ), it's just that the idea of finishing school is not appealing to me. And that's all.

Would give it 2,5 stars.

Katie Hutchison Irion : I have to say, I was a little disappointed with this book. Maybe I expected too much from it because of how much I adore the Little Lady Agency books. Maybe I just missed Honey. Maybe I shouldn't have read it in snippets on vacation. Maybe I shouldn't have read it after finishing Fablehaven and loving it. I don't know what it was but this was okay for me. I think I would really give it 3.5 stars.

The story is about Betsy and her desire to find her real mother (she was left in a crate on a finishing school doorstep) and update the aforementioned finishing school to have 21st century cred. So, there is a great best friend and a darling love interest and I loved both of these two but I think the story was too much about Betsy finding her mom and working through her own problems. I would have liked more cute guy interaction and none of this "let's finally get together two pages before the book ends."

Overall, I did like the characters and the story is an interesting read. A good book for the pool.

Adrienne: explanation for publication Selection: I chosen this publication whilst that I chosen the final books within the Little girl service provider Series. Plot: within the 1980s, child "Betsy" Philmore was once left at the doorstep of London's final completing school, and within the overdue 2000s, she returns for her followed mother's funeral and remains to save lots of the varsity from virtually definite failure. Characterization: The protagonist is still constantly emotional yet now not overly whiny throughout, and many of the different characters also are continually drawn. Narration: within the complete novel, just one line of narration stands proud negatively. Description: The novel's description recommendations are neither heavy passed nor obtuse. Setting: quite often London Prequel / Sequel / Etc.: Stand-alone book Ingenuity: As a moderate holiday from the normal chick-lit formula, this novel focuses less on romantic love and extra strongly at the protagonist's improvement into womanhood and self-definition. Language:

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even if i love the unconventional the writer is crafting or not, i'm fairly keen on her skill to put in writing with out filthy language or crass love scenes. Positives: This e-book represents a pleasant fictional story in regards to the intersection of contemporary society and old-school manners, etc..., and what follows is (at least if you are usually not hardline feminists) a story which made me suppose i may increase my existence pragmatically and organizationally. Negatives: For hardline feminists, this ebook should be an incredible turn-off, and a few readers will locate the protagonist whiney or too smooth for his or her liking.

Ann: A most pleasurable e-book and easily enjoyable to read!From the again cover:"Twenty-seven years ago, an baby became up at the doorstep of London's esteemed Phillimore Academy for younger Ladies. Now, Betsy Phillimore returns to where the place she used to be lovingly raised via Lord and girl Phillimore, basically to discover the Academy in disrepair and Lord P. desirous to shop his legacy." What ensues isn't just Betsy's makes an attempt to rejuvenate the dusty Academy (dusty in it is antiquated courses, and dusty in that it's short of an intensive feather dusting). But, alongside the way, Besty additionally offers along with her personal trials, from her conflicts to find her start parents, to her love life.In all, I enjoyed this concept! I enjoyed the concept of an up to date completing school, studying the issues which are had to begin an independent, winning life, yet that are not particularly taught wherever else. And whereas a superb a part of the plot used to be slightly predictable, an equivalent quantity was once no longer (and i used to be beautiful happy with the ending).My greatest criticism was once that, ironically, the e-book approximately completing touches felt love it wanted on ultimate completing touch. The e-book has a enjoyable plot and incredible characters, however it appeared to me to lack that one ultimate edit that might make the e-book a five star. i discovered myself tripping over the phrases only a tad too often, and a few elements of the publication appeared redundant. That said, Browne's aptitude for characters and candy tale greater than made up for it really is shortcomings!Definitely recommended!

Jenny: I virtually gave this five stars; i might provide this 4.5 if Goodreads had part stars.I concept this e-book used to be totally delightful! i have constantly concept there's lots concerning the genuine global that one has to benefit via mistakes, so a completing university just like the one Betsy develops sounds really appealing!! concept the kids who attended have been great, specifically Divinity and Anatasia. the opposite two, Clemmy and Venetia, did not come as alive to me. i feel I additionally beloved how earnest Divinity attempted to be.(view spoiler)[ a couple of thoughts: i used to be a bit disillusioned that they by no means looked as if it would come again to the pass over Thorne embezzling storyline. She wanted a few comeuppance, IMHO.At first, whilst Mark was once introduced, i assumed he and Betsy could turn out together, a person new on account that Jamie knew "everything" approximately Betsy. yet i really proposal it used to be cute that he and Liv, Betsy's BFF, bought together. Jamie, after all, was once deliciously wonderful. That used to be one among my favourite elements of the book, once they are sitting within the backyard and he ultimately we could her recognize that he is caught round and he loves her. I additionally relatively beloved the scene on the finish with Nell, Lord P and Betsy and the way she basks within the proud glance he offers her.As for Betsy's "real" mom, i really proposal it used to be Nell too, when you consider that she appeared to have a few secrets and techniques she wasn't telling, however it is smart that it used to be her sister - that's why a woman within the category photograph gave the impression of Nell. I additionally went again and reread components and he or she mentions that Rosalind

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was once the sweetest lady within the class, that's great foreshadowing. (hide spoiler)]["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>

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