

## **The Summer House: A Trilogy**

Alice Thomas Ellis



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"A work of astonishing illumination and delight...so edgy, bright and subversive about women's inner lives and experience."—Francine Prose, *New York Times Book Review* 

A New York Times Notable Book

In *The Summer House* trilogy, three very different women, with three very distinct perspectives, narrate three very witty novels concerning one disastrous wedding in the offing.

*The Clothes in the Wardrobe*: Nineteen-year-old Margaret feels more trepidation than joy at the prospect of her marriage to forty-year-old Syl.

*The Skeleton in the Cupboard*: Syl's mother, Mrs. Monro, doesn't know quite what to make of her son's life, but she knows Margaret should not marry him.

*The Fly in the Ointment*: And then there's Lili, the free spirit who is determined that the wedding shall not happen, no matter the consequences.

"Her style is succinct, her humor dry...Unputdownable."-The Spectator

"The subtlety of James, the comedy of Spark, the penetrating—and the deep, unflinching—eye of Jane Austen."—*Kirkus Reviews* 

"A witty and original writer."-Times Literary Supplement

"Inspired malice...Alice Thomas Ellis only bothers with the things that really bother her. That's why her novel is short. That's why her novel is good."—Victoria Glendinning in *The Times* 

"It oozes enjoyable malice."—Observer

"The glitter comes from Alice Thomas Ellis's mastery in keeping just the right distance between tones and undertones...This is a dark comedy."—*Sunday Times* 

Alice Thomas Ellis (1932–2005) was one of Britain's most widely admired writers. Her dozen novels include *The 27th Kingdom*, which was nominated for a Booker Prize, and *The Inn at the Edge of the World*, which won the 1991 Writers' Guild Award for Best Fiction. She also published many essays and edited books by Penelope Fitzgerald and Beryl Bainbridge. She was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

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