Mameve Medwed's second novel follows the breezy Cambridge formula of her popular debut, Mail. Daisy Lewis is a warmly practical, solidly attractive supermarket ombudswoman whose 20-year marriage to Henry, a computer-virus expert, is comfortable and familiar, though no longer exciting. If Daisy grits her teeth a bit at Henry's pretentious passion for all things Français, she's still happy enough, and the Lewises enjoy playing host family to a series of slightly forlorn international students. Even when Henry is led astray by a très belle mademoiselle and announces to Daisy that he's writing finis to their marriage, Daisy is more surprised than devastated: If her marriage ends, the toilet will never get replaced, she supposes. As soon as she thinks this, she is amazed. Her world as she has known it for twenty years is falling apart, and she focuses only on the most inconsequential domestic details. The loss of a power flush rather than the loss of a husband. But it makes sense. She can wrap her mind around a toilet. Marriage, husband, love, life are territories too vast to get a purchase on. Happily, Rebound City is just around the corner. Henrys
laid low by food poisoning that same night, and on a visit to the hospital Daisy meets Truman Wolff, a parasitologist whose ex-wife ran away with a French pastry chef. Drawn together by a series of such small coincidences and serendipities--including the fact that her son and Truman’s daughter are madly in love--the two begin living together, though Daisy refuses the doctors frequent proposals of marriage. When they agree to host an Italian student named Andrea, all hell breaks loose in some very funny--and very uncomfortable--ways. Will Daisy and Truman find their way back to the relationship they’re clearly meant to have? Yes, of course, and there are a few other surprising reconciliations along the way. Host Family gives a warm and funny, if not entirely new, twist to the idea of symbiosis. --Barrie Trinkle

**Personal Review: Host Family by Mameve Medwed**

As a Bostonian living overseas, I enjoyed this book for two reasons. The first is for all the reasons the others have said. It’s funny, witty and moves along at a nice clip. I read a variety of things and this book is entertaining without being completely potboiled. It's a refreshing bit of spritzer on a warm day. The other reason I love this book is that I am far from home and her sense of place, of Cambridge and Harvard as characters in the book brought the city home to me. It was pleasant to wander about Harvard Square once again if only through the pages of her book. Sigh. Thanks to Ms. Medwed and we eagerly await your next book!

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