

THE OTHER LIFE

By Ellen Meister

Summary

Happily married and pregnant with her second child, Quinn Braverman has a dark secret. At the moment she decided to leave her charismatic but maddening ex-boyfriend to marry her solid, stable husband, her life split in two. And now an alternate reality exists in which she made the opposite choice. But the important part of the secret – the part that terrifies and thrills her – is that she knows it's possible to cross from one life to the other.

There are portals.

In fact, there's one in the basement of her suburban home. Whenever she gets near it she can sense the other life pulsing by ... so close she can almost touch it. Quinn knows that right there, on the other side of the wall, is the life she would have had if she never married Lewis, moved to the suburbs and had a child, but had stayed with Eugene, a famous New York City radio personality with ceaseless excitement but constant neurotic demands.

The only person in Quinn's life more challenging than Eugene was her mother, a larger-than-life artist who suffered with bi-polar disorder, and eventually committed suicide. Quinn has never come to terms with the death, and still aches over this incomprehensible loss.

But even in her darkest moments, Quinn hasn't been tempted to slip through to the other life. After all, she loves her husband, Lewis, and their sweet, funny, talented six-year-old son, Isaac.

Then Quinn gets devastating news: the baby she's carrying might have a terrible deformity. The grief lures her to peek across the portal, and before she knows it she's in the midst of her hectic Manhattan life with Eugene.

Before she gets a chance to rush back to the husband and son she loves, the phone rings, and Quinn hears two simple words that shake her to the core.

"Hi kiddo."

Quinn swallows against a lump in her throat before she can speak.

"Mom?"

It's true. In this life, her mother is alive. And though the pull is powerful and primal, so, too, is Quinn's duty to her small son, who will be getting off the school bus any minute. And so she returns.

But Quinn is unable to resist going back to visit her mother again, and so begins a journey of crossing back and forth between her two lives – the one with a frightening pregnancy but a devoted husband and beloved son... and the other, with a dynamic boyfriend and the mother whose death tore a hole in her heart.

Each life has so much to offer that Quinn doesn't want to choose. But she soon learns that crossing between her two lives is fraught with peril, as the portal is shrinking. When it is about to close completely, Quinn is forced to make a devastating choice.

This gripping emotional journey to Quinn's final decision is both shocking and breathless ... as the power of a mother's love is put to the ultimate test.