



## A MIDWEST CONNECTIONS PICK!

“Ellen Baker has written the novel I’ve been waiting to read for a very long time. It’s the book you want to curl up with, the book you rush home to, the book you wish you’d written. In *Keeping the House*, she serves up the complexities of family relationships, the anguish of victims of wars, the innermost thoughts of women, and the social mores of the past. Seasoned with mysteries that kept me devouring pages, this is one huge gourmet feast of a book for readers to savor. I look forward to every delicious book this author writes.” —BEV MARSHALL, author of *Walking Through Shadows*

“I defy you not to love Dolly Magnuson, the newlywed 1950s Midwestern housewife at the heart of Ellen Baker’s *Keeping the House*. Struggling with the challenges of creating a perfect home and finding her way to fit in with the Pine Rapids Ladies Aid, she soon becomes enthralled with discovering the secrets of the grand abandoned Mickelson house, all the while baking Salmon Puff and wearing a pressed housedress. A great family saga set against the first fifty years of the twentieth century unfolds, replete with war-time heroism, forbidden love and lost ideals. As you follow three generations of wonderful characters and savor page-turning passages, you will race to finish reading this book, only to discover that you really miss Dolly when you are through.”

Ellen is one of staff members here at J.W. Beecroft, and of course we are extremely proud of her.

I thoroughly enjoyed *Keeping the House* and I can’t wait to hand-sell it this summer.

-- CARRIE SUTHERLAND, J.W. Beecroft Books & Coffee, Superior, WI

**on sale 7/10/2007 – start shipping 6/17/2007**

## KEEPING THE HOUSE

Ellen Baker

Random House Hardcover

1-4000-6635-2 / 978-1-4000-6635-3

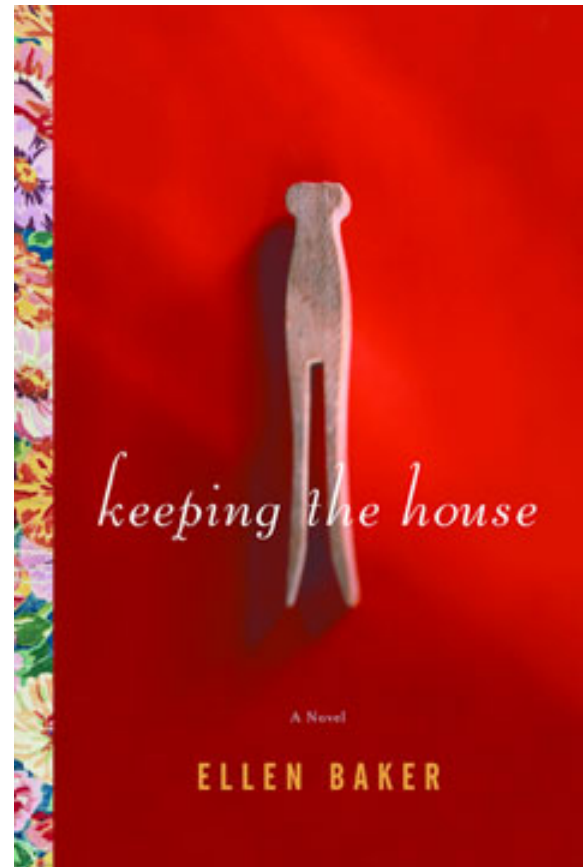
\$24.95/\$32.00C • 6 1/8 x 9 1/4 • 544 pp

Set in the conformist 1950s and reaching back to span two world wars, Ellen Baker’s superb novel is the story of a newlywed who falls in love with a grand abandoned house and begins to unravel dark secrets woven through the generations of a family. Like Whitney Otto’s *How to Make an American Quilt* in its intimate portrayal of women’s lives, and reminiscent of novels by Elizabeth Berg and Anne Tyler, *Keeping the House* is a rich tapestry of a novel that introduces a wonderful new fiction writer.

Beautifully written and atmospheric, *Keeping the House* illuminates the courage it takes to shape and reshape a life, and the difficulty of ever knowing the truth about another person’s desires. *Keeping the House* is an unforgettable novel about small-town life and big matters of the heart.

**ELLEN BAKER** was born in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, and grew up in Wisconsin and Illinois. She earned a masters degree in American studies from the University of Minnesota and has worked as curator of a World War II museum.

**She is currently a bookseller and event coordinator at MBA member bookstore J. W. Beecroft Books & Coffee in Superior, Wisconsin,** where she lives with her husband.





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