

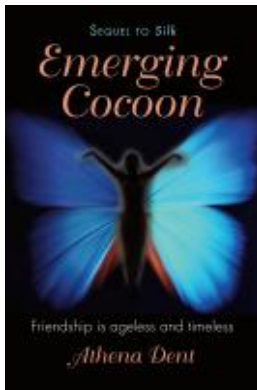
SEQUEL TO *Silk*

Emerging Cocoon



Friendship is ageless and timeless

Athena Dent



EMERGING COCOON is the long-awaited sequel to the sincere and realistic novel, "Silk." It is about five generational women: Crystal, Joy, Genny, Margaret and Sylvia, who are best friends as they take a well-deserved trip. However, friendship is not scripted or rehearsed and they had no idea WHAT was going to 'emerge' from this trip. Betrayal, lies, secrets and surprises not only 'transform' this trip, but also the ladies individually, and as a whole...

Emerging Cocoon

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(Sequel to “Silk”)

EMERGING
‘COCOON’

by

Athena Dent

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First Edition

Stage Nine

It is a beautiful and warm day. When you inhale, it feels like a breath of fresh air. Along the way, the road is lined with lots of green bushes and beautiful flowers. The bus driver would honk his horn, if he saw someone he knew. He would get a wave and a smile from people walking by on the road. The breeze from the ocean gives off an aroma of fresh flowers and fruits. The drive to the beach is short and he makes an announcement-

“Good day, everyone. I would like to welcome you to one of our most popular beaches. I hope you enjoy the sand, the waves and the crisp sunshine. The bus leaves every hour. Good day.”

The driver opens the door and the passengers, including the ladies gather their belongings and exit the bus. The ladies are a few feet away from the beach.

Crystal looks out over the beach and whistles, “*This beach has got our beach beat.*”

Margaret shakes her head, “You can say that again. My, isn’t this breathtaking. I hope nobody is in a rush to get back to the resort, because I definitely am not. We can stay for the rest of the day *and* night.”

Genny looks at Margaret, “You do plan on getting back on the plane with us, right?”

Margaret pauses as she continues to look out over the ocean, “I guess time will tell.”

Margaret starts walking towards the beach. The rest of the ladies look at Margaret.

“Did you hear that?” Joy says as she looks at Genny, Crystal and then Sylvia.

Sylvia sighs, “Well, sometimes a place can do something to you. We don’t know what’s going on in that pretty little head.”

“Alright, ladies. Time is a wasting. Can we head in *that* direction?” Genny points to the beach.

“You got it, sis,” Sylvia wraps her arm around Genny’s arm and they walk in the same direction as Margaret.

Crystal and Joy follow behind them. The white sand squishes between their toes as they find a spot on the beach.

Margaret walks to the middle of the beach and stops, “This is a good spot.”

She puts her bag down, closes her eyes, takes a deep breath and exhales.

Genny and Sylvia catch up with Margaret.

Genny looks at Margaret, then at Sylvia, “I guess this is where we will be settling for the day.”

“And it’s a good spot, too”, Sylvia smiles at Genny.

The ladies put their bags down, Sylvia unrolls a large beach mat; big enough for all of the ladies to sit on. Crystal and Joy finally reach the rest of the ladies.

Crystal looks around, “We came at the right time. There is hardly anybody out here. I bet you in the next few hours, it will be crowded.”

Crystal and Joy put their bags next to the rest of the ladies bags.

“Yeah. It’s always best to come early, regardless of which beach. I think people in general think alike. Go early, get a good spot, enjoy and go home. This beach is just as beautiful as our beach back home,” Joy picks up some sand and pours it through her fingers.

Genny shakes her head, “No, I disagree. This beach is gorgeous. I wish I could bottle some of this sand and take it back home.”

Sylvia looks at Genny, “You could do that, but you don’t have to. They have that at the gift shop. The sand that we are standing on is sold at the gift shop, all bottled up and ready to purchase.”

Genny smirks at Sylvia, “Now *why* would I buy sand, when I can get it for free?. After I finish drinking this bottle of water, I am going to let it air dry, fill it up with sand and take it home. Wa-la.”

The other ladies start laughing.

Margaret shakes her head, “Genny, you are a gem.”

Joy goes in her bag and takes out a beach ball, “Who wants to play volleyball?”

Genny looks around, “I don’t see a net.”

Joy raises her eyebrows, “You don’t need a net. If you have two or more people, that’s all you need. So, who’s in?”

Crystal raises her hand, "I'm in. Volleyball is good exercise."

Margaret raises her hand, "I'm in, too."

"Now that's what I am talking about. Anybody else?" Joy says excitedly.

Genny shakes her head, "No thank you. I am here to relax. You ladies knock yourself out."

"Yeah. I will probably play later. I want to catch up on some reading," Sylvia smiles.

"Alright ladies, let's get our ball on," Margaret runs away from the ladies and Joy follows behind her.

Crystal claps her hands twice, "This reminds me of my high school years. If there was one more person, then I would definitely put my game face on. See ya."

Crystal runs over to where Margaret and Joy are. They begin playing.

There is an area near the bus shuttle, where beach chairs can be rented. Genny and Sylvia walk back and rent three chairs. They take them back to the area, where they have their items. Sylvia sits in one of the chairs and Genny sits in another.

Genny lays back in the chair, "It is absolutely gorgeous out here."

"It is," Sylvia takes a book out of her bag, opens it and starts reading.

Sylvia stops reading for a moment and looks over at Genny, "I am so happy for Margaret. She went through so much with Richard. *He put her through hell!*"

Genny responds, "Well, she should have left sooner. You don't let *anyone* treat you like."

"That's easier said than done. You have to be in the right frame of mind and financial position to leave. That's where people get trapped," Sylvia responds quickly.

"Listen, he was an *asshole* and the biggest kind. He *was* like that, when *we* dated and that's why I dropped his ass like a hot potato!"

Sylvia's mouth drops open as she stares at Genny. She stays like that for a minute, before she responds, "*You what?! You mean to tell me you dated Richard?. Are you kidding?!* So Genny; if you knew *he* was like that, why didn't you tell Margaret?!"

"Because it was not my place to tell her," Genny snaps back.

Sylvia closes her book, lays it down beside her and stares Genny right in the face, "*What in the world you mean it was not your place?!*"

Am I missing something, Genny?. It is not like you just met Margaret or the fact that you've known her for the past 25 years. She is like a sister to you. She's *our* best friend. **HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?!!**"

(Sylvia has raised her voice to the point that Crystal turns around and is looking at the both of them)

Genny raises her voice, "Listen, you may *think* what I did was wrong, but it was my decision. Sometimes it is not good thing, when you tell a friend about someone you use to date. That person may think that either you are trying to intervene or don't want her to miss out something good."

Sylvia quickly snaps back, "Yeah, but in this case it turned out to be something *very bad*. Really, really bad. **THAT'S BULLSHIT, GENNY!**. You *know* what Margaret went through with Richard. **WHY DIDN'T THE HELL YOU TELL HER?!!**"

(Sylvia raises her voice even louder and to the point that Crystal, Joy and Margaret stop playing volleyball to turn around and see what is going on)

Genny raises her voice just as loud as Sylvia's, "**WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE TALKING TO?!!**"

Sylvia shouts back, "**I'M TALKING TO YOU!!**. You call yourself a sister/friend. *25 years Genny, 25! How dare you?!*"

Genny continues to shout, "She is a grown woman, who can make her own decisions. She *chose* to stay. I *chose* to leave. Simple as that!"

Sylvia gets up and stands in front of Genny, "It's not that simple. You only care about yourself. You don't care about nobody else's suffering. All of what she went through *could have been avoided*. We look out for each other, Genny. *Remember that.*"

Genny shrugs her shoulders and lowers her voice, "Maybe....maybe not. I thought about telling her, but then....I just felt it wasn't for me to say. People are funny, Sylvia. Sometimes you think you are doing the right thing, but then you wind up looking like the bad person. In a way....I am sorry I didn't tell her."

Sylvia shouts back, "**YOU SHOULD BE!!**. And *you are sorry.*"

Genny gets up, "You know what....I am not going to continue this conversation with you. This does not concern you."

Sylvia moves closer to Genny's face, "This does not concern me. Wow. *Who are you?*. All of these years, I thought you was somebody respectful. But, you are a selfish heifer."

Genny and Sylvia are nose to nose. Crystal, Joy and Margaret are walking back over to where Genny and Sylvia are.

"You know, I'm not too old to slap somebody silly," Genny says sternly.

Sylvia grits her teeth, "You can go ahead and *try!*"

Margaret is the first to reach the both of them and stands in the middle of them,

"What is going on here?. Does anybody care to enlighten me?" Margaret looks at Sylvia, then at Genny.

Genny continues to stare at Sylvia, "No, not really. I'm leaving."

Genny starts gathering up her things. Joy and Crystal are standing next to Margaret.

Joy looks puzzled, "What's going on?. Genny, why are you leaving?"

Genny does not respond. After Genny gathers up her things, she walks away without looking at anyone. Crystal, Joy and Margaret watch Genny as she walks away.

Margaret then looks at Sylvia, "Sylvia, what happened?"

Sylvia pauses; then takes a deep breath, "I don't want to talk about!"

Sylvia sits back down and then picks up her book.

Margaret stands in front of Sylvia, "What do you mean you don't want to talk about it?. Why were you and Genny yelling at each other?"

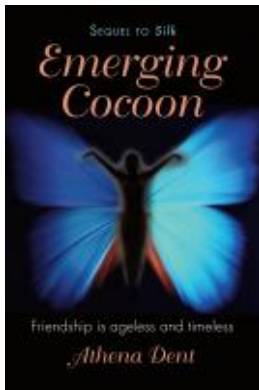
Sylvia looks up at Margaret, "Difference of opinion. That's all."

Margaret continues to look at Sylvia, "Difference of opinion, Uh-huh. Well, I'm not going to drill you. When you are ready to talk, I'm here."

Sylvia stares at Margaret and then goes back to reading her book. Margaret looks over at Crystal and Joy. They are completely silent.

Margaret says softly, "Ladies, let's get back to our game."

Margaret walks away. Joy shrugs her shoulders and follows behind Margaret. Just as Crystal is about to say something to Sylvia, Sylvia looks up at Crystal with this look on her face as if to say- '*Now is not the time*'. Crystal closes her mouth without saying a word, turns and walks away.



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