

MAY 21, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Richmond native, Jenny Hollowell, Reading and Book Launch Event for her debut novel, *Everything Lovely, Effortless, Safe*

Monday June 14th, 7:00 p.m.
1708 Gallery, 319 W Broad Street, Richmond, VA



Richmond native, Jenny Hollowell will read from her debut novel, *Everything Lovely, Effortless, Safe*, at 1708 Gallery on Monday June 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Everything Lovely, Effortless, Safe

A novel

By Jenny Hollowell

(Henry Holt and Company; On-sale June 8, 2010)

be like ginger ale

*effervescent and golden, sparkling and sweet
make them want to drink you...*

It's no secret that we're all obsessed with Hollywood. We eat up articles on actresses: their weight, their love lives, their next roles, their shoes. Today's Hollywood starlets are better known to the public than any others in history. But we still don't know the real story, the real tolls of an actress' life before she hits the glossy tabloid sheets. Living like Spartans - daily exercise, extreme dieting, a regimen of anti-aging creams - they cling to their youth while waiting for that next one-line role to make them big.

In EVERYTHING LOVELY, EFFORTLESS, SAFE: a novel (HoltPaperbacks; On-sale June 8, 2010), author Jenny Hollowell shows us the ambition and will inside these body doubles and adult film extras. Birdie Baker, our non-heroine, always dreamed of becoming someone else. At twenty-two she walked out on her pastor husband and deeply evangelical parents, leaving behind her small-town, small-time life on a bus to Los Angeles.

Nine years later, Birdie's life in Hollywood is far from golden, and nothing in the intervening years—the brutal auditions, the tawdry commercials—has brought her any closer to the transformation she craves. Caught between success and failure, haunted by guilt about a tragedy in her long-forsaken family, Birdie is at the brink of collapse when she meets Lewis, a beautiful but naive young actor with his own troubled history, whose self-destructive impulses run dangerously parallel to her own.

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When her big chance finally comes, Birdie must reconcile the wide-eyed girl she once was with the jaded starlet she has become—and try to find herself and her future somewhere in between. *Everything Lovely, Effortless, Safe* is the story of a young woman's struggle to make her own way in the Technicolor land of make-believe.

Birdie Baker is an unforgettable character—beautiful, wry, uneducated, dishonest, disarming, and above all deeply vulnerable. Fresh-faced talent Jenny Hollowell's taut, Spartan prose is immersing, from the cattle call auditions to the lavish Hollywood parties. A graduate of the University of Virginia's MFA program, where she was a Henry Hoyns fellow in Fiction, Hollowell has received fellowships to the Ledig House International Writing Residency and Vermont Studio Center, as well as a Tennessee Williams Scholarship from the 2007 SewaneeWriters' Conference.

Early praise for *Everything Lovely, Effortless, Safe*:

"Everything Lovely, Effortless, Safe tells us in quick witty scenes and sharp psychological details what it's like to be a needy spirit in a beautiful body, yearning for success. This novel is smart, spare, comic and sad. It rings beautifully true."--John Casey, National Book, Award-winning author of *Spartina*

"Jenny Hollowell's writing is gorgeous and edgy, lyrical and in-your-face. A complex, perceptive novel." --Sheri Reynolds, author of *Rapture of Canaan*

More about Jenny Hollowell's, *Everything Lovely, Effortless, Safe*:
<http://us.macmillan.com/everythinglovelyeffortlessafe>

For more information about this event, contact 1708 Gallery at (804) 643-1708.

1708 Gallery is a non-profit arts organization committed to presenting exceptional new art. 1708 Gallery is committed to providing opportunities for artistic innovation for emerging and established artists and to expanding the understanding and appreciation of new art for the public.

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