



Mostly Madly

Patrick Fealey

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Love and its pain. Sex and its satisfactions. The joys of both. Mostly Madly is about a young journalist who is mourning the loss of first love and the women who remedy him – at their own pleasure and peril. Tommy Risk is a man in transition, moving on from his girlfriend of five years, Jess, a cool fashion model, into a world of sex and love which revives him and enhances his understanding of women. He had treated Jess like a goddess, only to earn disdain as she attempted to shame him into someone he wasn't. With his newfound freedom from emotional oppression, he reengages as a man who treats women the way women have taught him to treat women. Tommy quits his newspaper job and moves to the Villa Spaghetti to work on his first novel. We meet Felicia, an archaeologist who does not believe in monogamy and whom Tommy has loved since they met five years earlier. There is Justine, an aggressive feminist who Tommy suspects is intent on riding him until he can't walk. Tommy endures a sociopathic housemate, a miserly and loveless photographer intent on destroying any joy he sees. Pam is a lifelong crush who comes back into his life 20 years after she rejected him. And Layne is a young art student who is exploring her sexuality with the force of an innocent. In the end, love heals love, and what Tommy thinks about women includes a lot of what he is not thinking about women.

Mostly Madly Details

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From Reader Review Mostly Madly for online ebook

Erika says

This book got sent to my bookstore by the publisher to see if we were interested in carrying it.

Entertaining at best, slightly misogynistic at its worst, it reads like a blog written by a sexually frustrated, emotionally devastated man who tries to figure himself out by trying to figure out women and I can't say if, at the book's end, he succeeds in either.

Britt says

Patrick Fealey delivers an interesting male perspective and take on relationships and personal struggles. His main character has his flaws, he's a drunk and in what seems to be a toxic relationship. We see this story told from a women's point of view all the time, but Fealey delves into the male version of the same story. Tommy is a successful journalist with problems from excessive drinking to the most pressing problem of a women he loved but is no longer the same women he once knew.

Although it took me a while to get into the writing style of Fealey, the novel has good pacing and an extreme range of characters that will intrigue the reader to continue reading. Tommy's neighbor Paulo is weird, quirky and to some and overall "donkey" to most people he encounters, but Fealey needs that character present to balance the flow of the novel. I wouldn't mind reading more material from this author.

Angela Nitsche says

"this is how it ends. like this. like the passing of the seasons, an unstoppable creep toward one day when she was not enough, one day when she was dangerous." And isn't that how a lot of relationships devolve?

Tommy, a young journalist, suffers the misery of a breakup with his beautiful first love, Jess. He rides the bumpy road of recovery by abandoning reporting for his dream of writing a novel and rebounding through the sexual ministrations of Justine, Felicia, and Layne. The language is often vivid, raw, and explicit, reminding me of Henry Miller or Bukowski, but its tone is never so misogynistic and the ending finds Tommy strong, hopeful and back in the game.

Emma says

A struggle to finish. Hard to maintain interest in the adventures of an unpleasant egotist who is more in love with his own penis than any woman he encounters.

Even the sex scenes aren't that sexy. Waste of time.
