



# City Mouse

*Stacey Lender*

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## City Mouse Stacey Lender

"*City Mouse* is a sharp and sophisticated novel of suburban life with a narrative voice that is equal parts witty, observant, and vulnerable. A wonderful debut!"

--**Susan Isaacs**, *New York Times* best-selling author

"For every city mom who fears death by suburbia--and for every suburban mom who wonders if it's just her--this insightful, funny trip into the secrets behind those picket fences is required reading."

--**Maureen Sherry**, author of *Opening Belle*

"*City Mouse* reminds mothers of that priceless lesson: the grass is always greener...and maybe even alcohol-soaked AstroTurf. I tore through this book like a bored, competitive housewife tears through her Xanax."

--**Faith Salie**, author of *Approval Junkie*

Priced out of their Manhattan neighborhood, Jessica and Aaron move with their young daughters to the one place Jessica swore she'd never go: the suburbs. But to Jessica's surprise, life in the commuter belt makes a great first impression. She quickly falls in with a clique of helpful mom friends who welcome her with pitchers of margaritas, neighborhood secrets, and a pair of hot jeans that actually fit.

Still, it's hard to keep up in a crowd where everyone competes for the most perfectly manicured home and latest backyard gadgets. And what's worse, as the only working mom in her circle, Jessica sometimes feels disconnected and alone. So she's thrilled when she's invited to a moms-only weekend at the beach, which she assumes will mean new opportunities for real talk and bonding. Instead, the trip turns into a series of eye-opening lessons, and Jessica must decide if she's strong enough to be honest with herself about the sort of life she really wants.

*City Mouse* is an irresistible debut that examines what it means to find your place, revealing unspoken truths about motherhood, friendship, and the thorny pursuit to have it all.

## City Mouse Details

Date : Published May 22nd 2017 by Akashic Books

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Author : Stacey Lender

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## From Reader Review City Mouse for online ebook

### Jason Pettus says

DECLINED TO REVIEW. As far as I could tell, this novel about a young Manhattan couple who decide to move to the suburbs consists exclusively of the boring little nothing small-talk suburban real-life conversations that I thought authors were precisely supposed to edit out when creating a piece of literature; and by the time I got to the one-third mark and had still not come across a single solitary thing of consequence that had actually happened to any of the characters, I finally gave up and moved on to one of the other 50 books I'm currently behind on in my to-read list. Not sure who this book is intended for, but certainly not for people expecting an interesting three-act narrative story. My second huge disappointment in a row from celebrity-driven imprints run by the usually excellent Akashic Press; if all the books being "hand-picked" by their famous guest editors are going to be this way, they need to dump the concept altogether.

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### Melissa Borse says

I received a copy of this book from the author and Library Thing for my honest review. I really enjoyed this fast, fun read. Jessica and her husband have two young children and a very small apartment in the City. Jessica's husband wants to move out to the suburbs which terrifies Jessica but she reluctantly agrees. She cannot believe the types of people who live there and the way they behave, but since she is trying to fit in she tries to turn a blind eye which becomes impossible. I highly recommend this addictive read!

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### Tess says

Completely pitch-perfect look at what happens when a Manhattan couple moves to the suburbs. It was like reading a book about my own life. Readable, honest, loved every second. Great debut from a new author I'm excited to hear from again. Must-read.

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### Patty says

Although this book started out in an interesting and appealing manner it soon lost its luster for me. I was not a fan of the suburban moms and I hated the changes made by Jess and Aaron. I kind of liked the ending, though, when they found themselves.

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### Donna says

If you can imagine Us magazine as a full-length book, that's this novel. I think there's a reason Us is only 20 pages and mostly pictures...

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## **Diana says**

An 'advance reading copy' of CITY MOUSE: A NOVEL by Stacey Lender was sent to me by Akashic Books in exchange for an unbiased and honest review.

Jessica and Aaron Almasi are a young couple with two young children, living in an extremely cramped apartment on the Upper West Side in Manhattan. They are experiencing severe growing pains with their apartment situation and are very discouraged and frustrated after looking at scores of newer, more expensive, bigger places to live. Aaron would like to move to the suburbs where their kids will have more room and they can have more space and privacy. The move would be doable, cheaper and more satisfying and Aaron couldn't be more mistaken!

Jessica tries to fit in with a local 'mommies group' and while they are helpful in some areas, their lifestyle choices make Jessica increasingly uncomfortable.

Some reactions:

The amount of money being spent is obnoxious; appalling; unreasonable; and completely out of my realm of understanding. Designer everything; gift baskets, flowers, clothing - always a one-upmanship level of control over friends and neighbors.

Aaron and Jessica's 'quality of life' begins to spiral downwards quite quickly while their 'quantity of life' and pretentiousness grows alarmingly.

Jessica thought she knew herself but suffered a full-blown identity crisis after moving to Suffern. (a play on words? suffern=suffering?)

After a girls weekend in South Carolina with huge amounts of alcohol, drugs and blatant infidelity, Jessica comes to her senses and realizes she must remove herself from this suburban lifestyle. Aaron is pulled into the poisonous atmosphere also, and luckily new work opportunities allow the couple to move back into their beloved city.

The writing is tight and crisp with some humorous moments. I was prepared not to like this book, but the main characters were intelligent, reasoned and very capable of introspection. Aaron and Jessica care for each other and their children and want to do what's best for the family. They are honest and likable. Their situations are very real. They are good communicators. I was rooting for them all the way through the story! I did enjoy this book and would heartily recommend it.

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## **Sheri says**

City Mouse by Stacey Lender

Jessica, her husband and daughters move out of New York City to the Suburbs. This is not exactly what she had hoped for but Jessica is determined to fit in. She meets a group of neighborhood Moms, they welcome her to their group. As time goes by the women decide to go on a weekend "Mom's only" trip to the beach for some fun, friendship and friend bonding.

Jessica is put into a world that she is not really wanting to be (in). As she quickly falls into a new clique, she is adjusting to her new environment and friends. As she makes changes to her life, she also learns about friendship, self discovery and (her) meaning of life.

An original story with likable characters, engaging dialog, secrets revealed and laugh out loud moments. Stacey Lender pulls you deep into Jessica's life with flare, grabbing your attention and not letting go. I highly recommend City Mouse to those who love a great (women's fiction) story.

\*I received this book from LibraryThing in exchange for an honest review.

## **Kayo says**

Fun and got better as it went along.

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## **Kate Olson says**

Vacation Review #4 ? "City Mouse" falls perfectly and satisfyingly into the genre I call Mommy Lit - books solidly about and for the moms in the world. It is both an engaging and entertaining story of motherhood and marriage, but also a love letter to New York City and urban life as Jessica and her husband wrestle with the decision of where to live with young children.

Jessica and Aaron are like so many parents who are desperately trying to do what they feel is best for their family but sometimes end up sacrificing their own sense of self and happiness in the process. And in this case, suburban drama and humor enter the picture as Jessica realizes that the 'burbs are nowhere near as quiet and boring as she thought they would be!

I identified so closely with Jessica's working mom woes and laughed out loud at some of the predicaments she found herself in, but the part that sealed the 4th star for me was the addition of the Hamilton subplot. It is such a timely and smart part of the story and ties in perfectly with Jessica's job as a Broadway advertising executive.

Highly recommend this book for all my mom reading friends and especially for those who appreciate NYC and the theater world. I can't wait to read more from this author!

I received a finished copy of this book from the publisher for review purposes- all opinions are my own.

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## **Amy says**

Toward the end of this book, the (completely loathsome) main character realizes that the beautiful plants in the home of her seemingly perfect neighbors are actually made of plastic THIS IS A METAPHOR YOU GUYS!

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## **Joan says**

ARC from LibraryThing. A pretty easy read, with clearly-drawn characters. Jessica, the city mouse, moves reluctantly to the suburbs, and tries to fit it with the moms she meets there. They're not quite what they seem, as she finds out, but all's well that ends well. Nothing special, but not bad.

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## **Jackie says**

This was a book club choice for this month. While I found the story funny and love that it was set in NYC/surrounding suburbs, I think I would find this a lot more relatable in about a decade, give or take a few years. It was a cute, light-hearted read and I would recommend it to any mom who lives in a city who's thinking of moving to the suburbs.

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### **Sarah says**

Easy, fast read but not a good one. I disliked all of the characters, but especially Jessica (it feels weird to say I disliked Jessica because my sister-in-law is a Jessica and I really like her!). Book Jessica reminded me of the worst of junior high or high school, doing anything to fit in. If you don't want it to look like you cheated on your husband, you don't put yourself in positions where it looks like you're cheating on your husband.

I also despise the "city people are better than those awful suburbanites" vibe through the whole book. As a rural person myself, the narrative that the only perfect life is in NYC gets old.

Wow, I guess I disliked this book more than I thought!

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### **La La says**

Another book that had some really great parts, but more stinky cheese parts. The writing is nothing special. It was almost dull. This book had an identity crisis going on between Women's Fiction with an empowerment theme and cringe worthy sleeze Romance. I thought vajazzling (<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vajazzle>) went out years ago.

I was approved for an eARC, via Edelweiss, in return for an honest review.

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### **Corene says**

Easy reading novel about an NYC living family with young children who decide to try the commuters' life from a big house in the suburbs.

They fall in with a shallow crowd of Real Housewives-style mothers, competitive fathers, and lots of drinking parties. The whole thing is exhausting, but I still quite enjoyed the book as a guilty pleasure.

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