



Neurotica

Sue Margolis

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If he always has the headache, why should you suffer?

In the bestselling tradition of Bridget Jones's Diary comes this outrageous, hilarious look at love, marriage, and sex, introducing Anna Shapiro, who believes that surely there must be more to married life....

Tabloid reporter Anna Shapiro can pinpoint the day, three years ago, that she and her husband, Dan, last had great sex. Anna would be grateful if something as ordinary as a mere headache was her husband's excuse; Dan's hypochondriac terrors include brain tumors, tropical diseases, and spontaneous combustion. While she loves her husband, she's not ready to give up on sex at age thirty-seven--so what can she do?

It's the perfect time for the distraction of a freelance assignment. But what her editor has in mind is a story on the explosive new feminist manifesto that prescribes no-strings-attached affairs for women. Anna's assignment is to interview three women who've had extramarital affairs purely for sexual pleasure--but she's inclined to take her research a bit further....

Can a woman have an uncomplicated affair purely for sexual pleasure--or do her emotions invariably interfere? Anna's determined to find out. And despite her worries about her middle-aged body, potential research assistants prove to be plentiful.

Going where no journalist has gone before, Anna delves into a world she'd never considered until now. What is, after all, the perfect outfit for committing adultery in? Is it truly beyond the pale to pick up a man--no matter how sexy he is--at a funeral? And what can be done about that single horrifying gray hair? The answers are more hilarious than Anna could ever have predicted.

But soon Anna finds herself facing the question that she never thought she'd have to answer: Is she willing to give up her marriage and her children for what may be the biggest gamble of her life?

A novel for every woman who's ever wondered--and every woman who hasn't--**Neurotica** will have you roaring with laughter as it takes you on a wickedly delightful journey of sheer indulgence.

From the Hardcover edition.

Neurotica Details

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Author : Sue Margolis

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Ahna says

I'm going to keep this short: This was an entertaining read but left me wondering if nowadays we are trying to make adultery a light subject? This book would have scored higher but the ending really threw me. I feel like all of the sudden the author changed her mind and felt bad and flipped things therefore making the story not finish solidly. I would write further and more eloquently but I honestly don't feel the energy with this book.

Shannon says

I debated giving this three stars. I honestly went back and forth while reading this between really liking it and kind of hating it. It might have earned three stars if not for the completely ridiculous notion of the main character falling in "love" with a man she barely knows and spends one night spilling her guts to and then having sex with. To the point that when she returns home and realizes that her husband has found out about her affairs, even though she still loves her husband, her response is basically "Oh, well, if that's what you want..." because she wants to find out if she has a future with this other man. Then she almost immediately realizes that she still loves her husband, but instead of fighting to get him back, she decides to blame the wacky feminist author who wrote the book that got her into all this trouble in the first place. Seriously, she spends almost the entire rest of the book on this mission with her article and going after this woman, rather than going to her husband and apologizing for being such an idiot. What reasonably intelligent woman doesn't know that she's playing with fire attempting to have multiple flings with other men?

So, basically, I guess I'm just saying that I totally hated the ending. If it had wrapped up a little better, it would have been a solid three stars for me. Parts of it were really funny, and I did feel for Anna in her predicament, even if I didn't agree with her chosen course of action. I would have also liked if her husband, Dan, had received more attention. Multiple perspectives are given, but the others are limited, and I felt perhaps the book was a bit slight in this regard. A quick and entertaining read for the most part, that ultimately left something to be desired.

Patricia Bell says

I now remember why I dropped this book originally. While I loved Perfect Blend (also by Margolis) I found this book slow to start and the characters slightly painful to read. I get the whole "I love my spouse" and I can totally understand how Anna would go bonkers with a husband like Dan who is the epitome of a hypochondriac. but accepting the challenge to be a "Clitoris Centered Woman" made me lose all sorts of respect for Anna. Love best friend Brenda and there were some lovely written scenes, but overall I wouldn't reread the book.

Aiduss LR says

Muuuy divertido y superficial.

Jessica says

British Chick Lit-definitely for mature audiences as Sue Margolis can become graphic with her sex scenes. Incredibly funny and hard to put down, her books become addictive.

At 37, tabloid journalist Anna Shapiro proves to be a real do-it-yourself expert. While researching an article on adultery, she embarks on three spine-tingling extramarital trysts. Annas husband, Dan, is a compulsive hypochondriac, spending his time agonizing over a plethora of self-diagnosed diseases, planning his funeral and dodging his dead mothers nagging, reproachful voice. All this, and the demands of their two young children, has drastically reduced the Shapiros sex life; Anna remembers the last time she and her husband had anything resembling mind-blowingly filthy sex was three years ago. While Anna is shagging to her hearts content, she is unaware that her husband, still faithfully in love with her, is seeking to cure himself of his neuroses, secretly, through therapy and a wacky New Age psychic. And she is surprised when her most recent fun-loving Romeo snags her heart, forcing her to face the possible disintegration of her family. In the midst of humorous high drama, Anna maintains her mission to publicly reveal a shocking secret of one of Americas most hypocritical and arrogant feminist figures. This subplot blooms alongside racy sex scenes, near-death catastrophes, a Jewish funeral, and the cost of male strippers, shallow editors and loyal friends. Anna emerges with a new understanding of herself, her family and her happiness.

Sonya says

About a woman who is fed up with her sexless marriage
Set in London
She's a reporter for a tabloid magazine and had has to write about adultery
Realizes instead of interviewing women, she will be the one fooling around
Brings her and her husband back together
Not all marriages are perfect and they all go through ups and downs

Susan Bazzett-Griffith says

1.5 stars. Very tawdry British smut, beach reading. Shallow characters, kind of funny in parts, but predictable and formulaic. I was expecting more from the blurbs I'd read. Not the worst thing ever, but definitely not very good.

Barbara says

No review necessary. This is a fun book, not a whole lot of substance, just (un)adulterated amusement.

Christina M Rau says

It's been a long time since I've read British chick-lit. I don't know if I've changed or if it's changed. Maybe neither, and this was a different kind of chick-lit, borderline women's erotica. I don't remember Bridget Jones's Diary talking about running a finger over a tingling anus. That's the type of scene I found in Sue Margolis's Neurotica.

I also found scenes of slapstick comedy like two women having a fight by smushing pie onto each other. Or a service for married woman to find the perfect datable man. Or a hypochondriac husband who sits on the floor in front of a mirror to inspect his ball sack in the wee morning hours. Funny stuff.

While I didn't catch onto the pop culture and sundry references to all things British, I did catch onto the story of a writer doing research by having affairs while her husband tries out some therapy that leads him to mother issues. It is a nice escape from heavy literature or, say, student papers (oh, the student papers, pages and pages of unrevised final drafts).

Natacake says

This was the first audio book I'd listened to. I think I enjoyed this book more listening to it than I would of it I had read it. Yes, there's some almost pornographic segments but the story around it was a good one. I would recommend...if you're not prude that is.

Luci Block says

I'm on the fence with this one...

There are quite a few hilarious laugh-out-loud moments, surprisingly steamy explicit sex scenes and great character portraits, especially of Anna Shapiro's immediate family but Anna herself seemed self-centered and abrasive. I really felt for her hypochondriac husband Dan and her two children she continually sloughs off on her best friend and soon-to-be single mother Brenda.

Dissatisfied with her marriage to her self-obsessed husband, Anna as a free-lance journalist assigns herself an exposé on adultery, using herself as the model for three trysts with various men, assuming no repercussions would follow, all stemming from a tome written by a feminazi American woman.

I'll leave it at that.

It was a fun read but I just couldn't get into Anna as a person. I guess when you're surrounded by crazies it's only natural to always be on the the defense. ??

Brenna Monsen says

Good start of a story line but the ending was too fast, and messy.

Chrissy Moon says

I bought this because I wanted to read something funny and also get a good idea about what 'chick lit' is. I read the book description on the back, and it sure seemed funny as hell. A husband who was a hypochondriac and had no interest in sex, and a wife who was a journalist and had to interview women who had an affair purely for the sex. Sounds promising, right?

Nope.

The book description claims that this story will have you 'howling with laughter' (I never even cracked a smile while reading this). Well, I don't know which dogs they read it to, but I certainly wasn't laughing when Anna's husband was holding his privates, writhing in pain on the bathroom floor, calling his wife a dumb bitch. I also didn't like the mention of the new moms club that thought it was terrible to breastfeed your baby and only wanted to feed their newborns dehydrated vegetables.

In what universe is this crap considered funny? Humor can exist with people having at least minimal respect for each other.

All 'humor' aside, at first I appreciated how the author had very short scenes. It was a great idea for a reader like me who had a short attention span. But that combined with her detachment to her characters prevented me from forming any type of understanding or bond with them. And really, what is a novel without an emotional foundation to cling to?

Sex can be great to write about. Irreverence can be fun to read, if done correctly.

This book wasn't.

I congratulated myself for getting to Chapter 2, but that's as far as I'll get with this one.

Charlotte says

This novel is about a married mother of two who, in the name of journalism (and getting some much-needed loving), has several steamy affairs in the course of a couple of months. It's hilarious and even trashy at points (that's a compliment). But it goes beyond the funny and fantastical to get to the bottom of the things that really matter in love and in life.

Vivian Herrero says

When I started reading I never thought I would end up giving four stars to this book! But putting morals aside, which can be hard to do, I get it, this book is very funny! I'm smiling as I am writing this review...