



Mid-Life Ex-Wife

Stella Grey

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Nora Ephron meets *Bridget Jones's Diary* in *Guardian* columnist Stella Grey's heartrendingly honest, witty memoir about her online odyssey to find real love in a virtual world.

“The literary equivalent of the *When Harry Met Sally* line, ‘tell me I’ll never be out there again’.”—JoJo Moyes, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Me Before You*

Singers may croon about love being lovelier the second time around, but it can also be far more complicated. When Stella Grey's husband leaves her for another woman, she fears she'll be unhappy and alone for the rest of her life. But daytime vodka-drinking and ice-cream are only short-term consolations. Realizing that she needs to take her future into her own hands, Stella dives into the world of online dating. What follow are 693 days of hilarious, depressing, and baffling encounters that unfold both in person and online. Stella quickly discovers that the more perfect a man appears on her screen, the warier she should be. It's a game of chance, with some players perfectly willing to lie to get what they want, whether that's a lifetime of love or a very brief encounter.

Amid flirty emails, Skype chats, and awkward small talk over glasses of bad wine (which may or may not lead to awkward sex), Stella struggles to remain optimistic. To succeed, does she have to redefine the kind of man she's looking for—or change the kind of woman she is? Funny, raw, and heartwarming, this book is a brutally honest account of the world of online dating—a world which so many of us are a part of, no matter our age—drawn from Stella's hugely popular *Guardian* column, “Mid-life Ex-Wife” (and expanded with new material) about her search for a second chance at love.

Mid-Life Ex-Wife Details

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Author : Stella Grey

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From Reader Review Mid-Life Ex-Wife for online ebook

Ktnrain says

While I'm happy the author found happiness, I could barely get through this book. I downloaded as an audio book and found myself gripping my steering wheel so hard and getting angry at the author. I felt like I was listening to a teenager in a first relationship and kept yelling at her to stop graveling for the attention of these men who obviously weren't interested in her for whatever their reasons. Yes, I felt bad for this woman who desperately wanted to find love again, but at 50 years old, I had hoped for a more mature approach. This book made me thankful for being in a 26+ year loving marriage. I wish her and 'Edward' well.

Fred says

This is a brutally honest and open account of the modern search for love.

This memoir of the author's years searching for second love through internet dating is based on a column the author wrote for a British newspaper, sort of like a "Sex and the City" for the internet age, which was based on an extensive dating diary she kept about her experiences. She talks about the various types of men, as well as some specific ones, that she meets. She discusses her own dating profile and those of men, wondering and agonizing about the truth behind her words and those of the men she reads about. She laments all sorts of distasteful truths about the online dating world today, such as men's desire for ever-younger, only-pretty women, their disturbing penchant for sending pictures of their private parts, the phenomenon of Skype-sex, men who are "serial daters," and those that are married and looking for flings. She discusses experiences of falling in love before, and being disappointed upon, meeting, as well as meeting, and falling in like, when the like is not reciprocated. There's also a lot of deep thinking about the larger issues at play in society: modern roles of men and women, the seemingly unchanging expectations men have of women, the frustrating persistence of outdated sexual and gender politics, the pressure to give into sex on the first date, etc.

The honesty is searing. Nothing is held back: her insecurities, her shortcomings, her needs and desires, hopes and dreams, all of which influence her behavior on these dating sites. Her anger and shame at the men who reject her based on her looks; the hopelessness of feeling she'll ever find The One; the propensity to fall head-over-heels with just a profile or even a picture; the discomfort with sex-talk from near-strangers.

A real anger comes through, at the unfair realities of life and relationships. The author has a feminist worldview and non-understanding or denial of male nature. She finds herself unpleasantly surprised that men want young, pretty and thin women, for example. Being out of the dating scene for many years, perhaps she believed modern nature or male-female relations had evolved past that. Men, however, will always want younger women. Men base attraction on looks, disadvantaging less-than-gorgeous females, while women base attraction on intellect and emotion. Men's ages don't matter to potential mates the way women's ages do. Men are not expected to beautify, exercise, primp, dress to kill, etc, the way women are. And the author does not like that one bit. One of the cruelties of the online dating world is that the men, for the most part, hold the power of choosing. In addition, third-wave feminism, with its insistence that women should be able to be as libertine and free with sex as men, has made men more, not less, predatory and expectant of sex. This is maddening, and makes the dating game much harder for women than it used to be.

I started out liking this book very much. The author's humor and tone make this experience fun to read about, and her brutal honesty and self-assessment make this a fascinating read. I found myself breathlessly living the first dates as she does, from the pre-date ritual of choosing (and unchoosing) just the right outfit, picking

just the right jewelry, etc., through the actual dates themselves, nervously talking too much when she liked the guy, nearly falling asleep when she didn't, wondering if he was going to kiss her at the end, etc. But about halfway through it started getting a little depressing. The dates and experiences, as well as Grey's own behaviors and insecurities, seemed to follow certain patterns, and didn't diverge from them. Also, the potential heartache inherent in each new guy is conveyed well -- too well, perhaps -- and the reader finds herself again, with the author, wondering: is he going to reject me? Is he going to ignore me? Is his face going to fall again upon seeing her, as others did before?

Thank you to the author and publisher for a review copy.

Lola says

It was ok!

The book was just ok. I wouldn't read it again because it was a slow read for me. I was misled by the title and thought this was going to be an entertaining book. It was full of complaints about on line dating. I wouldn't suggest someone interested in On line Dating read this book. ??

C says

I received this entertaining read as a Goodreads giveaway. As we follow the author through her various on-line dating escapades and mishaps, the reader also experiences her roller coaster ride of emotions and questionable choices. The lessons she learns throughout the 693 days are invaluable and show the author's growth mindset toward a satisfying conclusion.

Julie says

Cringeworthy at best. It redeemed itself to two stars in the last 45 pages. Actually, the best part of the book was the six line dedication on the very last page.

Olga Kowalska (WielkiBuk) says

Stella Grey nie jest Bridget Jones. Stella Grey nie jest „ka?d? z nas” i nie jest te? „ka?d? zostawion? kobiet? w ?rednim wieku”. Nie ma warto?ci uniwersalnych, a jej historia to zbiór powi?zanych tematycznie ze sob? sztamowych opowiastek, które móg?by zmy?li? ka?dy, kto ma do?? bujn? wyobra?ni? i do?wiadczanie w pisaniu felietonów. Jej „ksi??ka” mo?e s?u?y? jako poradnik, a raczej zbiór wszystkich mo?liwych porad i rad dotycz?cych randkowania w sieci, które równie? w sieci mo?na znale?? na niemal ka?dym tematycznym portalu. A te porady niestety równie? pozostaj? stereotypowe, bo rada typu: bierz pod uwag? ludzk? sk?onno?? do ?atwych ocen, czy nie sypiaj z facetem na pierwszej randce, to frazes, którym niemal ka?dy mo?e sypn?? z r?kawa. Jedyne, co Stella Grey daje czytelniczkom to naiwna nadzieja i potwierdzenie, ?e dzi?ki portalom randkowym mo?na znale?? swojego ksi?cia z bajki, swojego Edwarda i ?y? d?ugo i szcz??liwie, tak?e po pi??dziesi?tce. I mo?e tej obietnicy teraz mi?o?niczkom Stelli Grey tak potrzeba.

Tonya says

Hilarious! I couldn't stop laughing out loud. She starts signing up on dating sites, being optimistic, and she says, she reckons she needed more sites and more variety so she signed up to every worthwhile looking one she could find and afford.

Men are sexual by natural. More so than women it seems. We look for love perhaps. Bad Skype's, and phone chats, email's etc. This book will have you laughing late into the night.

You will begin to wonder if she is ever going to find live!

Nancy says

I couldn't put this book down. If I didn't have the feeling it would have a happy ending, I might have felt it was terribly depressing at times. The author's humor helped to keep things light. I am so glad it had the kind of ending I was rooting for, especially because it's a memoir. I am fascinated by a good love story, and love hearing how couples met, even if it involved 693 torturous days of online dating while in your fifties.

Lise M Dickson says

Feel sorry for every person who tries on line dating

Jean says

This book just made me cringe. I'm glad for the happy ending but good grief, really? The hook-up mentality is alive and well in the over 50 crowd, evidently. Online dating is a racket, regardless the age.

Aimee Shaffer says

I tried to like this book. I was hoping for an entertaining read for the summer. I guess it just wasn't what I was expecting. I only got a few chapters in and just couldn't go any further.

Rachel says

An unexpectedly delightful audiobook. Picture yourself at a bar listening to your brazen, hilarious British single girlfriend telling you about her latest online dating attempt. And there were a lot of attempts. The

author had me laughing, cheering and wincing. The authors nerve in dating coupled with her candid writing style kept me hooked. A brilliant "beach read" style book that I feel is better listened to than read.

Linda says

DNF

Vicki Bishop says

I can't believe I read the whole book! If EVER I was tempted to try on line dating this book cured me.

Anne says

I was interested in reading about her experience with online dating. Instead, she lists every breath she takes with every key stroke. Extremely boring.
