



Life Class

Ann Charney

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In her fourth novel, *Life Class*, award-winning author Ann Charney follows the trail of a young woman, Nerina, who sets out in search of better life after the breakup of the former Republic of Yugoslavia. Buoyed by wit and determination, she soon makes her way into the art circles of Venice, New York and Montreal, where willing mentors – and even dogs – collaborate to advance her progress. Despite her brutal start in life, Nerina faces each day with humour, optimism and resourcefulness. She is of those rare, clear-eyed individuals, who know the worst men are capable of, but manage to find the good in between.

Ann Charney's *Life Class* is an unusual diaspora novel, casting its protagonist not as a leaf scattered by wind, but as a brave explorer following her ambitions.

Life Class Details

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Author : Ann Charney

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From Reader Review Life Class for online ebook

Melissa says

I won this book on Goodreads. We follow the life of Nerina, a young courageous woman who wants to create a life for herself, full of dreams and passions, punctuated with obstacles that she achieves to overcome. Beautiful characters, well-written story.

Corinne Wasilewski says

The writing is clean, but, the story is sterile. Nerina, the protagonist, seems cut off from her emotions to a pathological degree. Seriously, a woman who has lived through war and the break-up of her country as well as the recent death of both her parents is sure to have at least some emotional issues. By neglecting this part of the story and focusing only on Nerina's ambition, the author creates a character that is one dimensional and disturbingly robot-like.

Doriana Bisegna says

I have to admit that this book grabbed my attention from the first paragraph. Set in Venice, New York and Montreal, this novel of immigrants and artists was a page turner. The only disappointment was that I believed there would be a climax to the story with one of the main characters. All along, as I was reading, I believed that something would happen to Nerina (forced to flee Serbia during the war) but that didn't materialize. Well written, loved the different settings but lacked the oommphhh that I was hoping for.

Linda Leith says

An unusual and enjoyable read, with an understated sense of humour and two strong women characters, of different generations, who share the experience of displacement as a result of war. Helena is the older of the two, a Polish and Jewish survivor of World War II with an acerbic manner, a thorough understanding of the international art world, and a heart of gold. Nerina has emerged out of the ashes of Sarajevo to find herself first in Venice, then in the US and then Montreal, where she ends up planning to open a gallery of her own.
