



Play Dates

Leslie Carroll

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With her sharp wit and riveting style, Leslie Carroll plunges us deep into the world of the overscheduled children of New York, and the oversexed, over-lipoed, overpaid people who raise them -or pay their nannies!

What happens when a trophy wife gets turned in for someone even younger, blonder, and prettier? Claire Marsh doesn't take it lying down. She may have lost both husband and housekeeper in the horrible divorce, but even if she's not able to keep living in the manner to which she's accustomed, she'll do what it takes so that her daughter will—with a little help from her slightly wild, slightly out-of-control sister MiMi.

Play Dates Details

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From Reader Review Play Dates for online ebook

Lori says

Well it was shallow to a point - so if you are not into chick lit slight fluff don't bother..BUT - I read it a few years ago and found it entertaining if not eye rolling at some points..another BUT - I also got it..City life is different from average small town to medium size city life and even in my suburban neighborhood it reflected so much of what this author was going through. Struggling to be the perfect mother, wife, live through the embarrassment of divorce, losing a job, not being able to afford the "premium" preschools. I grew up in a small town where private school's hardly existed and weren't needed, married a city guy who's family made fun of me for going to public school, like the lowest of the low. All in the geographics and money and status.

I was in my 30's when I had my daughter and watched all the 20's trying so hard to live some image that had been ordained to portray success. Play must be structured, kids had to eat on a strict schedule, you had to be perfect, nails, hair, weight, the right neighborhood, cars, etc. Play groups became more stressful in politics than my marketing career had ever been. In effect, the book was and still is a reflection of the credit spend mentality that existed, a shell, image without a lot of substance, since most of those women I dealt with are now working/downsized/divorced. I was just more relaxed and comfortable in my own skin and loved observing the struggles and felt bad for them, but it was amazing what a 10 year age difference could do, i.e. parenting instructions are just someone's theories, not an absolute, kids are just as happy with pots and pans as they are with the latest Vtech toy, especially if you have a pc and can by 5 Below software - it's ok to budget in case something happens! The birthday party nightmare..oh boy....bleeding money and time....

It was funny to me, some validation, a little relatable and a good fluff read. If you aren't into that don't waste your time, but if you want something akin to a Hallmark or upbeat Lifetime movie then read it.

Flavia says

Spoiler alert!! The chick is divorced, can't continue being a home-mom and pay for all the extra-curricular activities her 7-year-old is entitled to, + the tuition of a very high-end private school where the teacher is a monster who hates both mother and child....why insist on the school, then? no explanation to that, or to many other terrible dilemmas, such as how to organize a birthday party that is up to par with the competing rich females of her milieu. But, luckily, all is resolved with mom and auntie getting hot understanding men and rewarding designer/artsy careers. Oh, all's well that ends well. Ex-hubby, the guy who abandoned those lovely creatures, is deservedly punished for his bad deeds by having to put up with a skinny b... who has the figure and personality of a toothpick.

Only read if you have many hours to spare and want to dedicate them to something lame...

Sue Kozlowski says

I really liked this. The book describes some of the excesses bestowed upon children of the rich in NYC. Claire is divorced and her daughter goes to a private school. She tries to maintain the lifestyle her daughter previously lived.

Iris says

I would probably have liked this book more in book form. The narrator reading as a little girl voice was really annoying. But the story was great overall. Life changes really do affect your children, and you want to keep things as steady as possible for them. But could the outcome make them stronger? It's possible that they make you both stronger.

Ginger says

Just a good, fun chick lit read. But it does touch on the common problems of a newly single mom trying to cope with child care, finding and keeping a job, and everyday life with the private school snobs. A woman trying to find just what she can and cannot manage in her new life.

Katie Otte says

I am just a few pages into this and already annoyed. The newly divorced mother is complaining about having to be w/ her daughter 24/7 for the entire summer since both her husband and housekeeper left her. Boo frickin hoo. We'll see how long I last w/ this one...

Well, I finished it. Would not recommend. Predictable but unrealistic.

Debbie says

Cute and easy read. Nothing heavy or earth-shattering, but I did enjoy it.

Jenny says

Sorry, but this midwestern working mom just cannot empathize with New Yorkers who live outside their means, insist on private school (even when the teachers, curriculum, and culture of the school are obnoxious, judgmental, and hostile), and overschedule their kids with extra curricular activities. This was sometimes amusing, but I can't believe I read the whole book. Too long, too much privilege.

Diane Ramirez says

I'm not a big reader of chicklit so I'm a terrible source for a review of this book. As a dabbler in the girly art, I didn't really appreciate this. The narrators (three of them, all female) were talkative to the point where I

wanted to tell them to shut their yaps. And while I do have the female genetics working for me, and I do get excited when the Perfect Guy comes along, the little bit of a feminist in me is never pleased when the Perfect Guy's coming along equals the Happy Ending. The cynic in me wants to scream out -- when do we get to see his temper come out? Or, I bet he leaves his toenail clippings on the nightstand, Claire!

There were some things I never did understand, and that's as a been-there-done-that single mom. Why why why did this struggling mother with no tolerance for bull keep sending her daughter to the overpriced, overambitious, and extremely snooty Thackeray Academy? How could she see the damage that was being done to her daughter by the nutty school and NOT pull her out immediately? And did the author not find her main character a bit too indulgent of her daughter? She's a strong girl, not a delicate and rare lotus petal!

On the other hand there were some genuinely sweet moments that moved me. Well, about TWO genuinely sweet moments, but that's something.

Again, this is not my genre so it's quite unfair for me to say anything negative. But if you happen to be thinking of giving the chick thing a try, I recommend you start somewhere else.

Melissa says

Funny book about a stay at home raising her daughter in the Manhattan area, where it is all about who spends the most and has the best parties for thier kids, but not how good of a parent you are. Claire is married to a much older man, she is in her mid-twenties and has never had a job because she married right out of highschool. Then the jerk leaves her for another woman and Claire must get a job, keep up with the other mothers, and keep up with her daughter's busy schedule. Lots of interesting characters, love Claire's sister and her daughter. Funny book.

CupcakeBlonde says

Not as good as I thought it would be in the beginning. The story is told from three different narrators perspectives. A young newly single mother, her 8-year-old daughter and her older sister. While I enjoyed Claire and her daughter Zoe dealing with a divorce and having to be on their own for the first time, Clarie's sister Mia was annoying and not my favorite narrator, which may have led to my disliking parts of this book. Overall, kinda so-so on how I enjoyed this book.

Leslie says

I liked this one a lot more than I thought I would. I have read a lot of books where the over-indulgence and ridiculous wasting of money by Manhattanites is central to the story, but luckily, that didn't play as much of a role here as I thought it would. I really liked the character of Zoe; I am a sucker for a precocious kid who isn't very annoying and I rather liked how the narrator voiced her. Her diary entries were a little sophisticated for even an intelligent 2nd grader, but they were entertaining. Of course the story wrapped up a little too neatly with everyone getting their happily ever after, but it was a nice, light read with lead characters that I actually liked! Claire's sister Mimi is a bit annoying; I think her character is the one that actually suffered from the way she was voiced on the audiobook, but I also don't think her story was interesting enough to

make her the third protagonist of the book. Seeing the events of Claire's life post-divorce through her and Zoe's eyes was more than enough. Perhaps the author should have devoted a book just to Mimi and her life, so her character and the people in her life could have been fleshed out a bit more. Other than that, this one was a fun listen/read.

Melody says

It's been years since I read this book, and I think I liked it okay. But if I remember correctly, there was this bit in the back of the book where I guess they were interviewing her, and the mom was just totally out of character from the rest of the book. I guess this book really wasn't that memorable which is why I only gave it 3 stars.

Sarah says

Play Dates by Leslie Carroll (2005)

Diana says

A very fun and touching read. I'm surprised it didn't get more stars here. I enjoyed it from the very beginning to the end. I love how it's told from three perspective and all of them are women. I love how fluid is it. I love the struggle, it's touching sometimes. I love the happy ending, didn't feel it was cheesy at all!
