



Dinner with Anna Karenina

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Dinner With Anna Karenina by Gloria Goldreich released on Dec 27, 2005 is available now for purchase.

Dinner with Anna Karenina Details

Date : Published January 28th 2006 by MIRA (first published January 1st 2006)

ISBN : 9780778322276

Author : Gloria Goldreich

Format : Hardcover 368 pages

Genre : Fiction, Writing, Books About Books, Contemporary, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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From Reader Review Dinner with Anna Karenina for online ebook

Mary says

An interesting premise. Detours over duplicative territory; this really needed a good editor.

Salvatrice says

a literary groundhog day...what might have been a good story at 100 pages was brutally dragged into 360. for all the talk of insightful literary critique, the author gives her own readers no credit to pick up on even the most blatant concepts.

Stephanie says

A novel featuring books and book clubs, *Dinner with Anna Karenina* follows the lives of six women throughout the course of a year as they work their way through literary classics as well as a host of personal problems. Rather than focus on a central character or couple, the novel encompasses the professional and personal lives of each of the six ladies—Trish, Donna, Rita, Cynthia, Jen, and Elizabeth—while chronicling their bimonthly book club dinners and progressively deepening friendships. It is at the first of these meetings, hosted by the “prom queen” of the group, Cynthia, that she announces she is separating from her husband. Cynthia’s lack of an explanation for the dissolution of her glamorous and perfect life prompts unintended introspection and change in the lives of the other ladies as they ponder what must have happened to end Cynthia’s marriage. Each book club member in turn must take a closer look at her own life choices and decide what changes are necessary. As the months pass, the book club friendships deepen as the ladies open up to each other and begin taking control of their lives, setting up dramatic and surprising changes for all of them by the end of their year together.

Because this novel centers on members of a book club and their meetings, author Gloria Goldreich includes several well-known literary classics for her characters to discuss. For each meeting, one member of the group leads the discussion, summarizing the text and including biographical notes on the author before the others contribute their opinions. Therein, it is not necessary to have read the book club’s selections to be able to follow and enjoy their discussions, but for anyone who would like further reading as suggested by Goldreich, her selections include: *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy, *Madame Bovary* by Gustav Flaubert, *The Reef* by Edith Wharton, *The Letters of Edith Wharton*, "The Lottery" and *Life Among the Savages* by Shirley Jackson, *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov, *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi, *The Bell Jar* and the Ariel poems by Sylvia Plath, and *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott.

Kathy says

This book was so dull! So very, very dull. It was repetitive and in my opinion pretentiously written. Yes, I chose keep reading it thinking something was going to happen. No. Not really. Yes, I could have put this book down and walked away. The description was very enticing to me and I just knew it would pick up and have something interesting or big somewhere soon for goodness sake something HAD to happen. What

really bothered me the most about this snoreville of a read was that there was this big question alllllll the way through the book as to why Cynthia would end her marriage. Why? Why? Why? All her girlfriends wondered? They had coffee, lunch and dinner dates together to speculate. If your really friends just come out with it and ask. Cynthia said she didn't want to talk about it and so for months these ladies speculated over it. Perhaps I'm rude but I still would have been like, come one girl what's the deal? You kicked him out, you have kids what is so bad you are ready to end your marriage? Well the big secret wasn't that bad. But this book was.

Melissa says

Expected something more literary. This was really just chick lit that mentioned literary fiction.

Kathryn says

Can I give it nothing? It was so horrible, I did something that I loathe. I skipped/skimmed pages to the end to see if the question they are asking through out the entire book is ever answered. It's my book pet peeve, where they constantly ask the same question and never answer it in a book, and never just come out and ask the person what they are thinking. Sorry, what a waste of time.

Cindy says

Drie sterren is misschien teveel, maar 2 vond ik dan weer te weinig. Teveel herhalingen, te weinig over Anna Karenina, maar toch vlotjes uitgelezen tijdens treinritten naar opleidingsdagen en enkele andere klassiekers leren kennen die ik dan ook wel eens wil lezen. Dus wel OK maar had er meer van verwacht.

Bookaholic says

Dacă e ceva mai rău ca o carte proastă, e o carte proastă care promite, exact când ești gata să o lași din mână, că ar putea fi altceva decât pare. Nu m-am chinuit cu prea multe, dar m-a ros curiozitatea să văd ce-i cu Cîin? cu Anna Karenina, și ca să fiu în stare să vă povestesc despre riscurile de a investi în așa ceva, a trebuit să merg pînă la capăt. De ce m-am apucat să-o citesc, când am cînt de cînt un fler care funcționează? Pînă pentru că am vrut să văd ce face o new-yorkeză dintr-un subiect din care Azar Nafisi a făcut Citind Lolita în Teheran: discuțiile unor femei despre căsătorii și despre propriile vieți. (continuarea cronicii: <http://bookaholic.ro/o-alegere-riscan...>)

Elizabeth says

I enjoyed this book. Some reviewed it as slow and wordy. It was pretty predictable, but I was interested in the characters, and I don't mind slower stories, so I liked it. I also have read The Jane Austen Book Club and The Friday Night Knitting Club, which are slightly similar to this book. I found that toward the end of this

book there is meaning, and it contains some honest/frank examples of friendships between women.

Cornelia says

Citisem o carte cu subiect similar: Citind Lolita în Teheran de Azar Nafisi care mi s-a părut genial?. Și poate că m-a îndepărtat de această carte să fie mai puțin o umbră palidă a celeilalte.

Dar nu mi-a plăcut aproape deloc. Am terminat-o din inerție-pentru că era ușor de citit nu datorită dificultății și pentru că speram că mai mult din ultimele pagini să fie altfel. Pe scurt, 6 femei diferite-cariere și caractere diferite- fac parte dintr-un club de lectură. Focusul e totuși mai mult pe viețile lor decât pe lecturile în sine-se tot menționează că le place atât de mult să citească și cât de mult înseamnă lectura pentru ele, dar rămân doar la nivel de cuvinte. Intriga-generată de despărțirea Cynthiei, femeia care avea viața perfectă, de soțul ei- duce doar la discuții inutile: ce li s-o fi întâmplat? gata să ne trezim și noi că nu putem să fim la fel. Sfârșitul secolului m-a făcut să mă gândesc de ce mi-am pierdut timpul cu cartea asta. Dar mi-am dat seama că mi-a plăcut totuși ceva: discuțiile despre călătoriile și viețile autorilor așa vagi cum erau ele.

Sue says

I love reading books about books and this one was quite good. Six friends get together for regular book club meetings and throughout the year make changes to their own lives based on their reactions to the books they've read and their reactions to what's going on in each other's lives. I thought the author did a really good job creating the book discussions. The book club had read the biographies of the authors as well as their major literary works and each character had a fresh and unique perspective on the books and the authors' lives as they related to their own. I also thought the author portrayed a women's group in an authentic way. They like each other, they're friends, they enjoy each other's company but they also irritate each other, gossip about each other and envy each other. The book got a little mawkish at times but overall, I really enjoyed it.

Tania says

I didn't read Jane Austen's Book Club, I only watched the movie. Perhaps I wouldn't have liked that book either, but that movie inspired me to read this book, which I definitely didn't like. I found it pretentious and self-serving that the characters were constantly guilt-ridden about their curiosity of their friends' marriage, became more important than the stories of their lives, that they had to state over and over again how much they loved literature and how because they wanted to discuss it and the authors it put them above the average reader, these were all annoying points.

Along with the annoyances – this wasn't anything special. The characters were your run-of-the-mill "groupies" their storylines were predictable and their decisions were boring. While everyone was mulling over Eric's possible offense, I called the secret halfway through and I was only skimming. After the first painful 100 pages I took to speed reading – blowing past the mental angst to pick up the meat of the story and get to the end.

Ghost of the Library says

Boring, confusing and impossible to engage with...mostly I wanted to slap some sense into all these ladies and beg them to do no more book club meetings...for something that starts with such high purposes and claiming to be different, it turns into a mismatch of bad literary discussions thinly disguising the gossiping and the attempts at uncovering the dark secret one of them hides....blergh that's all.

Emma Deplores Goodreads Censorship says

I should have known better than to pick this one up, but at least now I can warn the rest of you. This book barely has a plot, the characters are flat and two-dimensional, and their secrets, when revealed, turn out to be not all that interesting after all. Even if reading a book about women using a book club as an excuse to talk about their troubles with relationships, children, etc., is your cup of tea, you can do better. If it's not, Dinner with Anna Karenina won't win you over. Stay away.

Liz says

I was warned that this wasn't the best book in the world and that was an understatement. This is the WORST book I read in 2009. It was so repetitive, a boring plot, 2D characters, etc. etc. etc. Wow – it was bad. It was so bad that I had to read it completely to fully appreciate it's true crapiness. I try to avoid reading reviews and even the back covers of books, but this book was so unbelievably terrible that about halfway through, I took a good look at the cover in case I was missing something... imagine my surprise to see 'award winning author above Gloria Goldreich's name'! How? Not this book! The book is so bad that the synopsis on the back had 4 out of the 6 characters WRONGLY NAMED. I think the editor and the reviewer didn't even read this book. Wow. It was BAD! Painful! Brutal!
