



## Is This All There Is?

*Patricia Mann*

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Beth Thomas' seemingly perfect life is about to take a detour. At thirty-five, she's married to her college sweetheart, has two adorable kids, and finds fulfillment teaching part time at the local university.

But when a friend persuades her to go dancing on a rare night out, a chance meeting with a handsome former student changes the course of her life. Loud music, too much to drink, and the thrill of feeling young again lead to an unforgettable kiss that was never supposed to happen. Beth feels wanted again, listened to, cared for, but she knows it's wrong.

She tries to put the memory behind her, but he pursues her, drawing Beth back to temptation. As she travels deeper into Dave's world, Beth struggles to choose between what her mind says is right and what she truly craves.

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/1qWNQT7>

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## Is This All There Is? Details

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Author : Patricia Mann

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Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance

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## From Reader Review Is This All There Is? for online ebook

### Nickel D says

*“Do other women fantasize about living a different life? Do they passionately love and loathe their families at the same time?”*

I read 80% of this book last night. After tossing and turning for a while, I knew I'd be waking up early to finish it before work. And that's exactly what I did. **Why?? What is it about this book that had me so edgy?** Was it insanely erotic and steamy? No. Was it over-the-top, can't-stop-laughing hysterical? No. It was real, honest, raw, unrelenting. It is the story of the woman who takes care of everyone else; the woman who loses herself in the process. Beth and Rick are living the American dream. Beth knows this and knows how blessed she is. Yet, her discontent is apparent from the very start. She feels invisible to her husband and has all but isolated herself from her closest friends. Beth has an empty ache, a void... and it needs filling. She just doesn't know how or why. On a rare night out with her friend, Beth runs into a former student from the university where she teaches part-time. Dave is 21-years-old, he is sweet and adorable with a captivating dimple and eyes that are as green as grass. He captured Beth's eye when she first spotted him in her class. Most importantly, Dave SEES Beth. He sees all the things she wants him to see and he's enthralled with it all. The intense feelings build through the night as Beth and Dave drink and talk the night away. With inhibitions low and hormones high, the two share a passionate kiss that quickly represents the flipping of a switch. The novel describes in great detail the inner struggles Beth endures while contemplating the fate of her marriage and the decision of what comes next. I loved this book for the honesty of it. We all get so lost in the day-to-day that we forget to nurture ourselves as well as our loved ones. During the process of filling everyone else's needs, we completely forget about our own. Often, by the time we realize it, it's as if a bomb has exploded and we haven't a clue where to even begin the repairs. The first question is "How did I get to this point?" and the next question, "How do I get back?" This novel is an amazing read for all of you moms, wives, and even husbands, who may have lost your way.

\*I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review. The opinions in this review are my own and have not been influenced in any way.\*

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### Sheri says

This is a story that I think any married woman with kids can relate to. The author did an excellent job of getting into her character's head and making her real. Of course, the author is married with kids, so I am sure she understands.

Beth's dilemmas and temptations stem from one thing – lack of communication with her husband. When you have busy lives, communication is not a hard thing to lose. I really enjoyed the story and how the author chose to portray Beth's life with her family. She obviously comes from a loving family but somehow lost herself in the hustle and bustle of everyday life. When tempted with the ability to feel something for herself again, she caved. She's human. Not that it's right, but that's what happens – affairs, divorce, unhappy marriages – everyday. Beth's inner turmoil was portrayed well in the story, and it makes her a relatable character. I would recommend this story to any woman who is married, whether they have ever had thoughts of an affair or not. It's an eye opening tale of temptation very close to home.

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### **Juls says**

First thing I did after reading this book, I went and kissed my husband. Not just a peck but a full on tongue twirling make love to his mouth kinda kiss. I wanted him to know that I desired him above all else.

I honestly can't say I liked this book. My heart still hurts from it. There were so many real emotions that I went through and the process of what happened breaks me up inside. I silently begged Beth not to do the things she was doing and when she didn't listen to me, I was really upset with her. Not like me being upset with a character in a book like she is but like she was a friend of mine and I just couldn't believe she would do this to herself.

I totally get where she's coming from. Especially as a woman, a wife, a mother. We take everything upon ourselves to get it done and done right. She felt like her world was coming apart and a small glimmer of hope comes in the form of a young college kid. He says the right thing and with just a simple word everything is thrown out the window.

It was never about someone new. To be loved, lusted, appreciated, and cherished, it didn't have to come from her husband.

Beth never anticipated her life to spiral out of control but what she thought was innocent flirting turned into gut wrenching torture of the cruelest kind. She couldn't get enough of him and the more she got a taste the more she couldn't wait for the next moment with him. But that high didn't stick around for long and right when she thought she was on cloud nine her world comes shattering back to reality and none of the pieces fit back together like they used to.

Personally the ending would have been different had this happened to me but the way things wrapped up in the story felt more like reality.

Thank you Ms. Mann for allowing me to review this book.

see all my reviews at [www.upallnightreviews.blogspot.com](http://www.upallnightreviews.blogspot.com)

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### **Sharon Xuereb says**

Sharon's Book Nook - Review [http://sharonsbooknook.wordpress.com/...](http://sharonsbooknook.wordpress.com/)

Wow, this book completely floored me as to how true to life this story is. I'm a woman close in age to Beth so I could really relate to her. Which I'm sure many other women in a similar age bracket and situation will at some point if not, now.

Patricia Mann has written this story beautifully and with so much emotion that you feel for all the characters on either side of the equation. Whether it be Sam, the eldest child, Rick, the husband, or Beth herself.

I enjoyed reading this book and couldn't put it down at times, hoping that things work out for this lovely family. It makes you wonder if the "grass is greener on the other side of the fence."

Thank you Patricia for sharing this story with us. It helps you appreciate who you have and what you have in this life. I look forward to reading more of your works.

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### **Rose says**

"Is This All There Is?" feels like something of a punchline after reading because the title had me thinking much the same about the quality of the book, not the content. I have read quite many romance books that deal with the issue of cheating spouses well, but this wasn't done very well, I think. Sure, it was realistic in turns, and one could say the portrayal of family and the stress associated with the female protagonist being directionless and not having her needs met in her current life were palpable, but I couldn't go through this without thinking that the kids were the awesome ones in this story, and the vast majority of the adults were people I wanted to throw the book at. What made it worse was that the narrative drug its heels in some key places that it made me lose interest very quickly.

Beth is a 35-year old professor who isn't happy with her respective life. I don't know if I would call the blurb 100% accurate for this book because of it citing that Beth has the "perfect" life. From point one of this book - you can tell she's overworked, overwhelmed, and her needs in her marriage are not met. Her confidence and ability to tell her husband "no" to things and assert her needs is bottom of the barrel at best. The story starts off establishing the relationships with the people Beth has in her life - and I liked the attention paid to Beth, her grandmother, mother, friend Shelley, her kids, and her husband. But it takes about 70 pages to work up to the encounter of Beth meeting her 21-year-old fling, a former student at that. Dave's personality is about as dull as a doornail - I couldn't get any dimensional arguments about why I should've cared for his character. He supposedly made Beth feel wanted/needed/appreciated, but I didn't see that. Instead, I saw a 21-year-old clingy man-child who kept telling Beth how much he wanted/needed her. And even when Beth's young son had a major accident befall him, Dave was more interested in getting Beth to see him again and to make her imagine being with him. Beth's husband wasn't any better considering how possessive he was, and when the other shoe fell and he discovered her transgressions, his reaction sickened me. I understand being angry, but telling your wife to drop her panties to show evidence that she \*didn't\* sleep with her fling just made me sick.

The only reason I'm not giving this a single star is because the kids were great characters and it does walk through Beth attempting to address her issues alongside her husband in the end. The ending was a bit of a cop-out for its nature, but I did appreciate the therapist sessions toward the end. But it didn't feel fulfilling to me in the way of a true coming to terms with what a more responsible and developed narrative would've brought to it. It was dramatic with no heart to it and, in turns, felt repetitious.

It was a sincere letdown for the promise it could've had.

Overall score: 1.5/5 stars

Note: I received this as an ARC from NetGalley, from the publisher.

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## Alice says

We never get to read a book of what happens after marriage. One can think that after that everyone gets his happily ever after but married couples have to work ten times harder to make their relationship last, to make their love grow and not lessen.

This story felt so real. At the beginning, I was so sorry for Beth. She had to be there for her family but no one was there for her. She is a Professor so she had to work, watch over her two kids and take care of the house.

***"Do other women fantasize about living a different life? Do they passionately love and loathe their families at the same time?"***

I was there, hoping that her husband did something for her, something in order to light up their love again.

***"It's so cliché, you know? I craved attention, affection, someone to kiss me passionately and take an interest in my life, my dreams, my feelings."***

But then one night she finally has some time for herself, she goes out with her bestfriend, they go dancing and she meets by chance a former student she is attracted to. At the end of the night they kiss each other and she can feel alive again. But he pursues her and her interest for him keep raising.

***"You're just like your father that way. You try so hard, do all the right things, take care of everybody else until you explode and act out, doing something destructive."***

I was so mad at her. I begged her not to do what she was going to do. This story was so painful, hard, destructive.

I didn't think I could enjoy it this much since it involves cheating . It was really worthy to read this book. This story makes you think about **who you are** , it teaches you not to take things for granted but to **fight** for them.

I warmly recommend giving this book a chance, it really opens your eyes.

*Thank you Patricia Mann for giving me the opportunity to read your work.*

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## Duchess Nicole says

I'm very torn about my rating for this book. On one hand, it brings to light some issues that few women feel free enough to talk about. On the other hand, the execution made it less insightful and meaningful than it could have been. I suppose I feel that it missed its potential.

We all know that marriage is hard. Many of my friends that got married in their twenties are divorced now. I pride myself on my eleven year marriage, and I'm happy to say that our marriage is currently the happiest it's ever been. However, we've been through some dark, dark times. And I distinctly remember thinking "Is this all there is? Is this going to be my life?" End of the fairy tale, Nicole. This is it. Somewhere between babies two and three and a myriad other problems that come with melding your life permanently to a person who is, in fact, NOT the person that I married...came this moment of "Oh no!"

And that's what's going on with Beth right now. Baby number two is one year old, baby number one is a precocious seven year old, and her husband sees her as a maid/childcare worker/end table decoration. And Beth feels it. She wakes up every morning and lives her life on autopilot...a passionless, dull, gloomy existence. Memories of her early marriage don't seem to rekindle any hope for the future. To put it bluntly, it seems that both she and her husband have given up. But she loves her children, and puts all of her devotion into raising them, foregoing that advice that all mothers get pounded into their heads..."Take care of YOU as well as everyone else." Somehow, everyone else always seems to take up all her time.

One thing leads to another, she goes out dancing with a friend, has a few too many drinks, meets a former student of hers who looks at her like a woman, and voila'...magic. She feels sexy, she feels wanted, she feels validated as a human again. Dave wants to talk to her, he admires her daily grind, he wants to know more about her boring life, and all of the desires of the past rise up with her libido.

This can be headed nowhere good.

On to my thoughts:

In such an emotional, thought provoking and easy to relate to story, I would have thought I'd have felt more of a connection with everyone involved. In reality, I think I felt more emotion for Beth's husband than I did with her. Regardless of the fact that I could relate to Beth because I've been in nearly her exact situation, I ended up feeling somewhat angry with her. She took things way too far and it almost got to the point where she was sabotaging herself on purpose. I thought that her husband kept trying to help her out. He could tell that she was feeling down and that something was wrong. He'd push her to go out, he'd push her to be a better person, to get away from the kids, etc. Her decision to be overwhelmed by her young children was just that...*her decision*. She had two different Grandmas available and willing...sometimes begging...to take the kids for a day or overnight. She had a friend begging her to come out with her, she had a husband pushing her out the door. I very quickly lost my sympathy for her. I hate to consistently compare her experiences to mine, but I didn't have that kind of support system. I had my kids 24/7 for their entire early childhood, with the occasional evening out without them. Beth **actively chose** to be in her situation, and it was frustrating.

When she goes out with her friend and the friend has lost a lot of weight, Beth is *angry*. Instead of supporting her friend, maybe getting tips and feeling encouraged to better herself, she again shows a lack of character and strength by pouting and actually **contemplating ending the friendship**. It was beyond childish.

There were a few other things that bothered me but the last thing I want to point out is the ending. It was very underdeveloped and concluded way too quickly. Someone reading a book like this is likely going to want some decisive resolution, and that didn't happen here. We're led to believe certain things happen but it was still very much up in the air. It went from *huge climax* to THE END in record time, and it wasn't enough, not for this story.

So, while I was looking forward to reading a book I could really identify with, in reality I felt more frustration than anything. Like I said, Beth was too self destructive to be a sympathetic character for me. I felt less emotion than I think I was supposed to, and it wasn't necessarily that the story was bad. The writing

style and the author's "voice" were not my cuppa.

*Copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley*

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## **Hazel \*Craves the Angst Reviews\* says**

Find This and Other Reviews At Craves The Angst.

Is This All There Is is a Woman's Fiction/Chick Lit written by *Patricia Mann*. I read this as a R2R with *Fifty Shades Support Group*. As always, a special thank you to the mods and author for allowing me to participate.

### **★★★★ Big Realistic Stars!**

#### ***The Review:***

This book was so realistic it was painful to read. And I think that's what I liked most about it...

When I first started reading Is This All There Is I wanted to put it down because the main character, Beth Thomas, is going through the daily monotony of a married mother of two small children. Her life is a revolving hamster wheel of lackluster events day in and day out. She gets up, takes care of her kids needs, takes care of her husband's needs, gets chores and work done, helps the kids with homework, feeds kids, puts them to bed and is a roommate with a man who barely notices her and ignores the signs of unhappiness because he doesn't know what to do about their abating marriage.

But Beth's character was in a genuine and poignant place. As miserable as her situation was, I read on because I needed to find out if maybe her circumstances could end on a better note than it started.

Like so many of us, Beth had dreams and wanted more from her life. She wanted to *feel* more from her life. She has a hole inside her and she tries to fill it with her children, work and chores, reading and even binge eating. Unable to fill that hole she is susceptible to outside influences, including the attentions of a much younger man who is all too willing to give her what she thinks she's missing. Passionate kisses, adoring attention, compliments, someone to notice her worth and tell her she's more than just a nurse maid to those around her. He fulfills these wants and desires.

Beth is me. She is you. She is every woman who's found herself in the rut of being a woman, a mom, a wife and a caretaker for everyone around her, except herself. This read was so familiar, it was real and like the character, I was filled with a longing to know if it could end differently.

#### ***The Wrap Up:***

This book might have started out slow and you might have a reluctance to read it but it's worth getting to the end because along with the emotional distress it also is filled with *hope*. And it gave me a different perspective on my own life.

I'll definitely look for other works by this author.

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## Ilze says

I think this is a first book ever where I did not particularly like the main characters, but I still really enjoyed the book. I guess, because I could understand their choices and decisions, it was easy to relate and connect with them. However, I really hope somebody will slap me if my life ever becomes similar to Beth's!

### **"Do other women fantasize about living a different life? Do they passionately love and loathe their families at the same time?"**

Beth Thomas is a mother of two boys and a wife of a man who has really forgotten how to be a husband. The story is about her struggle of finding herself, getting to know herself again and filling this hole, she always felt inside her.

On the night out with her friend, Beth ran into one of her old students, Dave. She always had a crush on him and turns out he had a crush on her too. Her husband, Rick, hasn't really paid any attention to her for a while and for Beth it felt good to be wanted by somebody. One thing leads to another and in the end of the night Beth kisses Dave. Although it was unforgettable, it should have never happened. Now Beth is split in two, she feels angry and guilty, but she has to decide is she taking that kiss further or does she stop any contact with Dave?

### **"And who the hell gets to say what's wrong or right for us?"**

I was conflicted throughout the whole book. I knew that the cheating was wrong and I wish I could have judged her for the choices she made, but I really couldn't because I felt the conflict she was feeling and I was able to understand the decision she made. I actually really enjoyed the conflict in my own head, because I just didn't know how and what to feel. Also, I constantly had to guess in which direction the story will go, because I had no idea. I loved that.

Yes, it was easy to connect with Beth and I could easily understand her choices, but I was struggling with liking her because she seemed weak. She was putting everybody else first, and that left her unhappy. If you are unhappy you should change something, not wait for a miracle. I am 22 and unmarried, so I probably don't know what the hell I am talking about, but if I had a husband like Rick, who doesn't care about his marriage or his wife, I would be seriously pissed.

I hated Rick, because ultimately I blamed him for everything. I know that Beth's decisions aren't excusable, but if Rick would have been a better husband than maybe the kiss would have never happened.

Dave, khm. I am still conflicted about him. He was fun and sweet, but the fact that he wanted a married woman makes it hard to like him.

Anyway, I really liked the book and the emotions I felt while reading it ♥

### **"We have many soul mates who come into our lives to teach us the lesson we need to learn."**

Lastly, I really felt like there were so many great lessons packed in this book. It was a story which takes place after the HEA, and it shows the struggles families and couples really have. I really enjoyed it and I highly recommend it if you are in a need of less lovely-dovely stuff. :)

**"Are you lost in remembering? It happens to me all the time." ♡**

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*\*ARC provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review\**

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### **Angelina says**

#### **3.5 or 4 "Is This All There Is?" Stars**

First of all I want to thank the Author Patricia Mann for giving me the opportunity to read your beautiful work.

I gotta be honest that its kinda hard for me to rate this book. Put me through roller coaster emotion. I gotta say that I really like the story and Mann's writing is amazing, capturing the reality and realness of the story.

I guess not all Marriage are perfect. All marriage has been in the ups and downs battle of life but the only thing is you know how to ride with it. I guess that's the problem between Beth and Rick they let the marriage fall apart. I understand Beth's part why she did it. Its just that situation kinda breaks my heart.

I once read that your partner is a reflection of yourself. Like you gotta PoV love your partner the way you love yourself, Cherish her/him the way you cherish yourself. Overall it was a good read and I definitely recommend it.

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### **Tiffany says**

This book is not my typical read but as a 35 year old woman in a 12 year relationship and a 6 year old son I could relate to Beth more then I wanted to. This book just pulled at me to read as I much too often wonder, is this all there is? I often have wondered if the grass is greener on the other side. And apparently it is not .

I tend to read books with lots of steamy situations and if you are looking for that in this book then you would be disappointed . But this book is much deeper then that, it's about so much more than sex. It's about a woman feeling like something is missing in her life and the days of old with the husband that used to look at her, really look at her and make her feel something but the monotonous routine of daily life put their relationship on the back burner . Who can't relate to that and feeling like its the same day over and over ?

This was a great book and worth the read for me. My only critique would be when Dave tells her he loves her by IM. To me it seemed too premature, their relationship just didn't seem deep enough for that yet and her response so quickly was even worse.

I definitely recommend giving this book a chance and viewing it with an open mind.

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## **Terri ♥ (aka Mrs. Christian Grey) says**

Quick review:

**Cover:** Okay

**Rating:** NC-17

**Steaminess:** Steamy

**Thumbs Up:** 4.5

**Overall:** Close to home, but a solid read

**Characters:** Well Done

**Plot:** Realization that your life has somehow gotten away from you

**Page Turner:** Yes

**Series Cont.?** N/A

**Recommend:** Yes

**Book Boyfriend:** Dave & Rick

### **SUMMARY (50 words or less)**

The cover may not grab you, but the story is worth the read. Always with contemporary romance, it might be a little too realistic for comfort. Still, I have no regrets reading. I think the ending was as real as they come. I left saying wow, just wow.

For a full review and yummy pic, see my blog post at:

[http://mybookboyfriend.blogspot.com/2...](http://mybookboyfriend.blogspot.com/2012/07/review-of-birthright.html)

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## **Lady Vigilante (Feifei) says**

Before I begin, I was given a copy of this book for an honest review.

*"Do other women fantasize about living a different life? Do they passionately love and loathe their families at the same time?"*

Patricia Mann definitely hit the mark with this heartwarming and utterly poignant story. This book will suck you in from the very first page and you just can't help but *feel* for Beth. The cover and the blurb really captivated me, and I really wanted to read what Beth's choices were when she entered into this situation. This book isn't just a detailed play-by-play of a clandestine affair, it is SO much more than that. Reading this book made me realize the gravity of relationships, of marriage, and just how far is too far.

Throughout the book, I could really see Beth struggling to maintain balance and control among her children, job, marriage, and social life. Her life is normal and everything you'd expect, but to her it's just...dull. Lifeless. Lacking passion. A chance meeting reuniting Beth with a former student helps put her life into perspective.

*"You're just like your father that way. You try so hard, do all the right things, take care of everybody else until you explode and act out, doing something destructive."*

Crash and burn. Through the descriptions of Beth's daily routine, it was thoroughly predictable that Beth would just snap and need a break from life. And part of the reason why her relationship with Dave was so inevitable was because of the novelty. The thrill. The forbidden. Who could resist the allure of youth, the promise of passion? My heart went out to Beth because any normal married woman could find herself in Beth's situation and be conflicted over the right decision to make. Is there even a right decision?

As for Beth's husband Rick, he was what a normal married dad with kids was like. He genuinely cares for Beth and is a responsible and loving father.

*"But something inside me knew he was the real thing. Unlike anyone I had ever known, and in spite of my deeply held stereotypes about frat boys, it was clear that this young man was just a purely decent, honest, ethical, human being."*

That begs the question: how did their marriage just fall apart if Beth and Rick loved each other and knew they were it for one another? Such a simple question but with too many complex answers. What I love so much about this book was how **real** this story is. I constantly felt like I was a silent observer of Beth's life, a third wheel on her social outings. I think Iyana's reading best summarizes Beth's journey:

*"There are many paths you can choose at this point. It's not that one is the right one and all the others are wrong, but there are some that will bring you closer to your truth."*

This book is definitely for any woman, married or not, who finds herself struggling for identity and asking the question: "Who am I?" This book blew my mind and I sincerely hope that Patricia writes a sequel where I can see what life has next for Beth.

5 PHENOMENAL STARS!!!

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### **Jen says**

**My Review – warning - a lot of personal feelings mixed with the summery of this book –**

I gave this 2 stars, because I thought it was ok

I was not expecting this type of book. There was a lot of personal feelings in this book for me, so I was struggling with rather I should finish reading it or not.

Everyone struggles in their marriage. And anyone who says they haven't had a couple of weeks or months where their marriage was put behind other things is probably going through that phase right now, or hasn't gotten there yet :)

My husband and I have been married 16 years, and I was 4 months pregnant when we got married. It wasn't a shot gun wedding by any means, and neither was Rick and Beth's wedding. They fell in love, they got pregnant and decided to start their future together sooner.

And like Beth, eating for comfort when your husband isn't there to give it. Taking on the toll of your kids and the house, the working outside of the home.

I think Beth had it a little easier than I did. She had her mother and mother in law always wanting to take the kids for a few hours here or there. But Beth wasn't happy with her marriage, so she drowned herself in her love for her children, and felt no one could take care of them like she could.

But when Beth's Friend Rachelle talked her into going out with her one night, Beth found another way to feel appreciated.

Personal note... I go out with my girlfriends all the time. Dancing, movies, dinner - whatever - but I've never once felt the desire to hang out with another guy.

This is the part of the book that really got me down. Beth ran into a few guys she taught at the university. And it was fun to have the guys flirt with her. Hang out and show interest in her. And when Dave started paying extra attention, and buying more drinks, Beth got in a little over her head.

We can blame the alcohol for that. I don't drink, so I don't know what it's like to lose my head in alcohol like she did.

But when she saw him again, she was fully sober, and when he kissed her again I wanted to personally slap her myself.

Then we meet Jill - Jill is ok with cheating on her husband. And is actually encouraging Beth to go farther with Dave because he makes her feel good in ways Rick, Beth's husband doesn't, or hasn't in a long time.

I do know I would never be able to forgive or forget if my husband ever cheated on me, and I would expect the same from him. So to read about Jill encouraging this, really pissed me off.

But another thing I was upset about, is you can see Rick trying. He seemed to want to fix things with Beth, even after she told him she wasn't happy. And I seriously didn't understand WHY she would push Rick back and go back to thinking about Dave...

Well like I said, this book disturbed me in a lot of personal ways.

It doesn't leave you feeling awful at the end. There is hope. And anyone who has struggled in their own marriage knows that when both people want to stay together, it will take some work.

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### **Amy J Romance Author & Reader Events says**

Is This All There Is floored me with the similarities between the book and real life. 30-40 year old moms find themselves where Beth was in this book. The story is very well written and the author develops the characters well. From the best friend, Beth's thoughts on her friends weight loss, Beth never taking time for herself, her husband reminding her to pick up the dry cleaning, her nursing, and the secret eating the story is too real. I was so empathetic to Beth and where she was and kept thinking been there done that. I didn't even judge her when she went outside with Dave and one thing led to the other. I got it I really did but Dave was so creepy after a while. I kept thinking Fatal Attraction. Beth was so far in and gone she couldn't recognize it. I mean really, I love you didn't scare her and she said it back! What in the world? It took her getting

caught to really appreciate where she went wrong. Beth spent so much time being "lost" that she didn't realize her husband was also just making it through. Like I said too real, too raw. I don't think there are any readers that read this story and could judge or say those thoughts had never entered their mind. One lesson to learn? Its always fun and new and romantic and steamy at the beginning but would those things endure when you add "real life" to the mix? When you add a 7 and 1 year old? When you are working in the home and out? When money problems enter the relationship? It quickly makes you realize its just as "easy" to put the effort back into the relationship with your spouse than moving on. Thank you Patricia Mann for sharing your story, it made it all the more special. I could relate to Beth that said, the story was almost just too real. I read to "get away" not read about real life so this genre is probably not for me. I will say, reading this story made me feel validated and that I am not a failure as a mom or a wife, just tired. This story also made me understand my husband and our life more.

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