



An Emergence of Green

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An unplanned encounter between Los Angeles trophy wife Carolyn Blake and her new neighbor--tall, blond and athletic artist Val Hunter--leads to a close friendship and deepening emotions that young Carolyn has never known. Suddenly, Carolyn's carefully manicured domestic life seems contrived and much less colorful. And her husband's love for her seems contrived and condescending, as if it's not the real Carolyn he loves at all. His tenderness turns to rage, caresses to blows.

An Emergence of Green Details

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From Reader Review An Emergence of Green for online ebook

Freyja Vanadis says

I bought this book almost 20 years ago, and I used to love it. Even though the situation between Carolyn, Val and Paul never happened to me, I could relate to the women and their coming-out process. But now that I've had a girlfriend who cheated on me, and I've experienced the utter devastation and heartbreak that goes along with it, my feelings about this book have completely changed. I have nothing but sympathy for Paul, and nothing but contempt for his wife Carolyn for cheating on him and rubbing it in his face, even before she and Val's relationship turned sexual. I have zero tolerance for infidelity, whether straight or gay. So many gays and lesbians make excuses for that kind of behavior because they're "following their heart" or "being true to themselves". Yeah well, get out of your existing relationship/marriage first and THEN you can follow your heart. I lost a huge amount of respect for Ms. Forrest, reading this book this time. Also, I'm so sick of how she portrays most of the men in her books as villains. Her hatred for men is so glaringly obvious, it's laughable. The way she wrote Paul's character is so unrealistic and so cartoonish, it makes me wonder if she actually knows any men in real life. The rape scene, while horrific, was also a little silly in a few places. Where Paul thought he would make her "feel him" inside her? Give me a break. That was just dumb. Sorry, but Forrest is slipping from the top spot of my list of favorite lesbian authors.

Lissa says

Broke me

Loved it.this book tore me to pieces. I'm moving on to more by this author. Loved the women and the hope.

Julieta Steyr says

This is a book whose prose is kept constant and freely flowing to just over half of its content. The problem arises the author (as always) when the emotion itself the wound just after both players have sex. It is a very good book, but from there begins a decline of prose, the story itself. There is some violence included. As for the marital argument, it did not seem to give him a closure to the issue, but rather something closer to procrastinate and nothing else. I enjoyed a lot BEFORE reaching the part that everyone wants to read.

Debby says

I read this when it was first published in the '80s. I'm re-reading it now on my kindle.

So, I finished re-reading it and I have to say I liked it better this time around. I think the first time, I was too close and involved in the experience of male chauvinism. Some men still 'don't get it', but I find it easier to let them perpetuate their own ignorance.

Anyway, Forrest really captured the climate of that time and her characters are so real.

Claire says

An Emergence of Green is an excellent romance novel - well-written, moving, and with a compelling (if not entirely convincing) plot. Carolyn Blake, a young woman stifled by a possessive husband, strikes up an unlikely friendship with the artist Val Hunter. Val's bohemian ways give Carolyn the space she needs to develop a sense of self and question the structure of her marriage, Paul's controlling behaviour. Val and Carolyn are, of course, drawn to one another.

It's a moving story, especially with the theme of respect within a relationship. More than that, it's also a boldly political novel, offering a dramatised critique of the idea that a woman becomes a man's property upon marriage. The politics in no way detract from the story - in fact, Val's wry comments during the BBQ scene had me laughing out loud - but rather make it all the more interesting. This book is incredibly readable.

I would recommend An Emergence of Green to anyone interested in romance or queer fiction.

Evan says

I liked the characters alot. I did not like the infidelity (why do people cheat. I almost stopped reading) or the last act of the book but it was entirely believable just hard to read.

Gina Barnett says

Loved it...

Cheri says

While I enjoyed the book, i found it very dated. If I would have read it when I came out, just a few years after the book, I probably would have loved it.

Alice says

For lesbian novels from the mid-'80s set in California, this is the best I've read.

Jakalak says

Some lovely use of language in this book, but certain elements of the plot didn't really withstand the test of

time. I enjoyed that the story was mostly driven by the development of the relationships between the characters, but there were certain elements that could have been explored with more depth and nuance, particularly how Val and Carolyn feel about themselves and each other in relation to committing/enabling adultery. Still, the sex scenes were well-written, and I enjoyed that both women were new to lesbian relationships but in different ways. I'm glad that I read this book, but I probably won't keep my copy around the house for potential future re-reading.

Ulla says

This might be my favourite among Katherine V. Forrest's novels! Though I do love hem all!

sapphictionaire says

A fascinating she/she/he said of a marriage falling apart and falling in love.

Terri says

This book was well written.

Personal note: I have issues with books where the husbands are made out to be evil when the book is supposed to be a romance novel. I can't really enjoy the love story when I'm just really hoping that he doesn't hurt her. Yes, I know these things happen in life but I was just looking for a nice easy read and there was a lot of anger and hatred in this book. There are also some trigger warnings if this is an issue for anyone.

Baxter Trautman says

A classic. One of the first books I read when I came out in... '86, '87? Can't even remember now, but I do know that this was one of the better books available at the time.

Tony Hisgett says

This is one of those books that I should have read thirty years ago as I suspect it would have had more impact then. The story is a domestic drama about a marriage falling apart and a repressed wife finding herself.

In the end the husband Paul is the 'villain', but there are moments when given his background you can have a bit of sympathy for him, as he can't understand why he is losing his wife. However, as the story progresses his true sociopathic controlling nature emerges and he becomes the main 'bad guy'.

The connection between Carolyn and Val is interesting, but apart from the sex, I didn't think the author really developed their relationship and at the end of the book I was left feeling there should have been more.

