



Young Wives

Olivia Goldsmith

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Meet The Young Wives --Angela, Michelle, and Jada, thirty-something women who appear to have lives as delicious as dessert...A typical New Yorker, half-Jewish, half-Italian, Angela is a lawyer married to Reid, a handsome old-money WASP. Michelle adores her childhood sweetheart husband, Frank, and the dreamhouse he's provided for her and their two beautiful children. Jada is an African-American working mom trying to maintain a happy home despite her husband Clinton's failing business. But then, like a bad soufflé, the lives of Angela, Michelle, and Jada collapse as they each discover the truth about their dirty, rotten mates. Uniting for solace and support, they draw on one another's friendship to heal their wounds. Bowed but not beaten, though, this smart, audacious trio will concoct a brilliant recipe to take back what's theirs and serve justice on their duplicitous men -- and transform them from victims to victors!

Young Wives Details

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Author : Olivia Goldsmith

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Ashley says

Was not sure about this book when I first started. I was worried it would reflect the typical chic-lit man-hating plot lines that have become frequent in this genre. However, I was happily surprised. The plot line deviates from the typical "you done me wrong" into a more "I am woman hear me roar." It also shows how at time, life is not fair and just plain sucks. Even when YOU do everything right sometimes you get screwed over and have to find a way to come back or crawl out of the hole you have been set in. It was a longer read than most chic-lit, but well worth it. I finished this book with a smile and a chuckle.

Amy says

This book could have been called 'Young Wives Club' as it is essentially a retelling of Goldsmith's 'First Wives Club.' While it was interesting there is nothing original about it...kind of like a remake of a blockbuster movie on the Lifetime channel.

A story about three...young wives (shocking, I know) who are all wronged by their husbands so they band together to seek revenge on the men who wronged them. The women are victorious in their schemes all their husbands are humiliated and the women obtain justice and move on with their lives. It was kind of fun, though Goldsmith comes across as a real man-hater...if you like the original, you'll probably like this too...but if you already read the original, move on a read something new.

Meghan says

Seriously, I must be getting old because these characters are driving me nuts with their "teenage" black-and-white "I hate men" attitudes. And please, if you're 31 and in good shape, why should you be proud that you can squat down without touching the ground? My goodness, I can do that and I'm neither.

I think Goldsmith has a serious chip on her shoulder when it comes to men and it's getting tired. The only part that was actually funny and reminiscent of The First Wives Club was when they were paying back Angie's ex-husband. Jada's story was the most engaging until the ending, which was completely unrealistic to the point of stupid. Michelle's story wasn't interesting and her naivete was terrible. Did she really think that her felon husband would spend the rest of his life hunting her down knowing it was she that put him behind bars? Did she really think she could be around for Angie's baby AND be in witness protection?

I read this as a "beach" read so I wasn't expecting much in the use of brain power. But "chick" lit doesn't have to be so insulting.

Isabel Luna says

Tenía reservas sobre este libro porque no me había gustado el de las divorciadas; pero la verdad me ha gustado mucho. Resulta muy entretenido la forma en de abordar la interrelación entre las tres protagonistas tan diferentes pero que asumen similares posturas de nobleza, lealtad, valentía y amistad frente a la adversidad. Hay escenas divertidísimas y la lectura es muy amena.

I had doubts about this book because I had not liked *The First Wives Club*; but at last, I really liked it. It is very entertaining how to approach the interrelation between the three protagonists so different in personalities, but assuming similar positions of nobility, loyalty, courage and friendship facing adversity. There are hilarious scenes too and is very easy to read.

Elinor says

I always enjoy reading Olivia Goldsmith (and think of her premature demise with sadness -- imagine dying for the sake of a chin tuck). This is probably my least favourite Goldsmith novel so far, since it is basically a different version of *First Wives Club*. In this case, the wives are younger, hence the title. All three are betrayed by their spouses and get their revenge. Also, their journey took 512 pages, which seems excessive for what one reviewer termed "pop feminism." While I did like the basic revenge premise, there were too many flaws to give this book more than three stars.

Joyce Sandiego says

When I reading this book, I was happily surprised because it is a good story for all. It is all about man-hating I think. I like the part of the story when Reid gave Angie a ring, so sweet. And also the line of Reid "Is this a religious difference? I can't tell if it's a Jewish or a Catholic one. But only sex and jewelry get you to mention the Lord's name". Then Angie and Jada meet again. They had a problem but they resolve it. In the end Angie received a letter from Jada and Michelle that makes her smile. I don't hate man but I love the story. Thanks for the author who made this :)

Melissa says

Mixed feelings here. A friend lent it to me, with the disclaimer that it's one of her favorite books ever and knowing that this author also wrote *First Wives Club*, I was excited to read this.

It wasn't horrible, but it could have been a lot better. Here are my issues:

1. It could have been shorter. 600 pages for chick lit is overkill in my eyes. Since it was summer and I just read a gruesome, based on a true story book, I wasn't as annoyed as usual. But unless you're a literary genius, you can probably cover this kind of writing in about half that space.
2. I had the impression the whole time that she was writing the screenplay to *First Wives Club Part II*. There were some really bad jokes that maybe would have been somewhat amusing on-screen but just stupid in a book. At one point, she even references the movie and how funny it was! Conceited much?

3. I would have exacted revenge on Anne in the book, she dropped the ball there.

4. I hated how she wrote about the character Jada. Jada used acronyms constantly which was just weird. It got to the point that there were so many, I didn't even try to remember WTH they meant. (pun intended) Say "he's hot!" not "DDG" (drop dead gorgeous) already! I also was really ticked off that race was such an issue here - Jada couldn't believe she had a white friend, a white lawyer, white people are so lucky, so special, blah, blah, blah. And she intentionally lives in a white neighborhood so her kids can have a good school and then complains that all their friends are white?! It was beyond annoying to me. Fortunately, I really liked Jada's story line, so I dealt with this. But sorry, "sisterfriend," unless it's crucial to the storyline, I just don't get why authors have to mention race.

Were this a movie, I'd probably watch it and maybe even recommend it to friends, but I wouldn't recommend this to anyone. (Wonder if my friend will get pissed and get revenge on me when I express my feelings about her favorite book? Uh oh.)

Tiara says

I enjoyed this book it was the first time I've ever read anything by this author however the black white thing really got on my nerves it seemed a little elementary and the whole we hate men we hate men attitude was a bit redundant. The one character who had troubles with the legal system, her story really upset me your husband was a grade a jack ass. I'm not sure if any legal system would actually work that way I mean telling a judge that someone is a drug addict with absolutely no proof seems a bit ridiculous for the judge to actually believe it. Overall it was okay... I probably wouldn't read anything by this author again though kind of a slow read.

Jean Perry says

A good read, mysterious, funny, and dramatic. Yes, since i saw the movie but didn't read the book, it seemed very much like OG's First Wives Club. Some reviewers have said it's sexist and man-hating, maybe you should reconsider, not all the men in the book are jerks, mostly the three husbands. Some of the men are very considerate and supporting, helping the women once the wives' lives have spiraled out of control. Those men did appear in the second-half of the book, so many the jerks had overwhelmed your perceptions and you couldn't see the nice guys who came along.

It's not a book you will find in a literature course, but i enjoyed it very much.

Leslie says

This story was told in the same vein of "First Wives Club" with women who had been scorned or otherwise mistreated by their husbands trying to enact a certain amount of revenge, but here, Goldsmith didn't do right by all of her characters.

I originally gave this book 3 stars, then downgraded it to 2 because the more I thought about it, the more I have an issue with it. In particular, I do not like the way the story played out for Jada. I am a black woman, living in a primarily white community, working primarily with white people, so I could relate to the way Jada felt that she and her family were isolated from others like them - in her case, the only exception being

their church congregation. However, it was beyond annoying how Jada so often questioned if her being black is the reason why people looked at her, talked, didn't talk to her, treated her the way they did, etc., etc. She brought race into EVERYTHING, even when there was no reason for her to do so. I kept having to remind myself that this book was written in 2000, and not 50 years earlier. Aside from that, Jada simply got the shaft all the way around. Now, I understand that the legal system can be unfair to women sometimes, but Jada had a good job and had been the sole wage earner for her family for five years, yet when she was sued for custody, she LOST?? To her husband who had no money, no job and was cheating on her? The entire court case/hearing and how it was handled was beyond ridiculous. If Goldsmith wanted Jada to be the victim, all she had to do was set it up better. There was absolutely no evidence pointing to Jada being an unfit mother, except for lies, which were easily disputed, that were told by her cheating husband, his mistress and his mother! To have Jada's story end by her fleeing the country with her kids, and being a fugitive for the rest of her life was such a slap in the face to the character, that it seemed as if Goldsmith simply hated her. There is no logic inherent in the story, as written, that would justify why she wrote this character and her story this way.

As for the others, Angie's story had a better ending; she put her cheating husband behind her and gave him a little bit of the what-for (along with her supposed best friend) along the way, so that was satisfying. Michelle also had a satisfying wrap-up to her story; she appeared to be on the path to rebuilding her life for her and her kids. The one aspect of her story that was ridiculous was that her husband's finances, and by extension hers, weren't ever impacted until Michelle decided to cut up her credit cards. In all the real cases of suspected felonious activity that I am aware of, the accused has his/her assets frozen, even before they go to trial, so there is no way Michelle's family would have had any money to spend during those months following his arrest.

Some parts of this book really did make laugh out loud, even though the details of all of the main character's stories were sad, but the tonal shift was sometimes a bit jarring. Perhaps Goldsmith should have written this entirely as a comedy OR a drama, to help with that.

Anna says

ok so i only ever read this for ""fun"" so i won't get too much into this. as in, i wanted a beach read but it turned out not to be as fun as i'd have liked. actually it was quite depressing. but it also turned out to be about female fire-forged friendships and i'm always down for those. STILL the book was... way too long. it could've easily been half its size. hell, it could've been a novella and it could've told the same story, perhaps more effectively, and it could've been good. it's full of dropped subplots that do absolutely nothing, and at the end of it all, it doesn't have much of a payoff, really, mostly because of how a) unrealistically and ""easily"" Jada's story was resolved and b) no interest at all toward Angie and Michael's relationship, or her pregnancy for that matter. she could've chosen to have the abortion and it would've been the same story? i wouldn't have noticed? or she couldn't have been pregnant in the first place? still the same story? ok this is already longer than if my feelings for the book manifested physically also: forgettable. maybe 3 stars is too much, but any less than that seems too strict. idk i don't remember.

Laura says

The story is about three women who are brought together by their situations, all victims of “men” and the

American justice system. Trying to do the right thing by the seemingly right way doesn't seem to work so together they take matters into their own hands.

I found this book to be quite sexist. It was all women are suffering heroes and men are heartless jackasses. Gender stereotypes drive me up the wall. I understand that gender equality hasn't always been the case and women had to work hard to achieve their rights. Things have changed though and are continuing to change. By continually spouting these horrible stereotypes, it is in fact reinforcing them. Anyway i won't get on my high horse right now.

The story was interesting however it just felt like a B-Grade version of The First Wives Club. It wasn't new and exciting. It didn't really have twists and turns that kept you guessing, and i sometimes found myself thinking about chores that had to be done while i was reading because it wasn't grabbing my attention.

I felt a lot of despair for the women and their situations, some parts were quite heartbreaking. I think the constant men slugging stopped me from truly connecting with any of the women in the story though.

There was a sex scene at the beginning of the book but then nothing really after that (there were sexual references however without spoiling it, i don't really count it in this circumstance). I wouldn't have kept reading because of the sex scene however because my husband gifted me the book i gave it a second chance.

Overall i feel that saying i enjoyed this book is a little bit of an overstatement. I probably wouldn't read it again and i'm sorry to say but i feel like the only people who would enjoy this kind of story with all it's sexism are women who are bitter about men because there wasn't really anything else to draw you in.

www.readingforthemasses.wordpress.com

Sarah Kirkpatrick says

Another Goldsmith. I really enjoyed this book though the ending left a little to be desired; I wanted to know what happened next .

Diane says

Ok read! (paperback!)

Louise says

- Simple vengeance
