



Close Relations

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It was a situation from which half-hour television comedies are made. "*Marcia!* In tonight's episode, Marcia Green's warm and winning and wise and wonderful Jewish family reminds her that she is thirty-five, divorced, and childless."

That's Marcia on her close relations. True, she's one of the best speechwriters around in the tough world of New York's smoke-filled rooms, but her family wants something else for her. No, not that Irish person she's living with. Another doctor, or at least a dentist.

But Marcia claims she's happy, getting plenty of the two things that exhilarate her most: sex and politics. She's not looking for commitment, and certainly not looking for a wealthy Harvard-educated man-about-town who is every mother's dream. Yet as wise mothers everywhere are fond of saying: *you never know*.

Close Relations Details

Date : Published 1980 by Lipincott-Crowell

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Author : Susan Isaacs

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Jenny says

For one, not the author's fault, but this was written in 1980s! She talks about wearing pantyhose on dates and other just weird stuff (though yoga and pedicures existed back then, who knew?) The story was way too dated. Also, the premise behind the chick lit was politics, which is not my favorite. And third, the protagonist HATES her family, and from her point of view, who wouldn't? Ugh, but in the end (insert sarcasm here) she gets the right guy, so who cares!

JenniferB says

Not her best book. Old fashioned about relationships and attitudes at work. Still enjoyable though.

Karen says

To quote a paragraph from the book, "It was a situation from which half-hour television comedies are made. MARCIA - in tonight's episode, Marcia Green's warm and winning and wise and wonderful Jewish family reminds her that she is thirty-five, divorced and childless". This book was a pleasure, witty and wicked all rolled onto one.

Lee says

I'm not quite sure how to review this book...the lead character, Marcia, is a political speechwriter living with an extremely handsome but uncommitted campaign manager. Being apolitical myself, some of the behind the scenes stuff was a different premise than the standard fare. But early on I was struck by how controlling and meddlesome her family was...but as events unfolded, I came to side more with her family and started realizing how much she was fooling herself. Although there was a lot of pretension and snobbery involved with her relatives, it felt like Marcia rejected everything her family said just to be the independent rebel, not because she totally disagreed with their viewpoint. I also found it interesting that she didn't seem upset with her boyfriend, Jerry, when he announced he was leaving (even though she had already moved on and was, in fact, pregnant by and engaged to another man), yet she was filled with indignation at the other woman he'd fallen for...?!?

April Reeve says

I love this book. I've read it many times. Sometimes your family is right and the guy really isn't any good for you.

christine says

Craaaaaaap and the sexy bits weren't good either. Bored airport buyer beware! I actually felt a smidgen guilty for leaving it behind me on the plane.

Amy says

2.5 stars. Just really couldn't get in to the book and I didn't resonate with or like any of the characters that well.

Dogsandbooks says

Donated to DPL aug 2015

Linda says

Although she knows she's married to the perfect man, she wants another.

Ann Massey says

Imagine Bridget Jones as a Jewish, single political speech writer from Queens working in New York - juggling a demanding career, a live-in boyfriend who won't commit and a family who won't be happy until they see her married and you have the plot of 'Close Relations.' I loved it. Marcia Green, Isaacs heroine is the sort of person I'd like for a friend.

Beth Pearson says

This book dragged for me. It was written in 1980 and reflected a lot of attitudes and morals of the 70's. Marcia's Jewish family wants her to marry one their own and settle down to babies and housewifery. Marcia works as a speech writer in politics and is happily living with her Irish and handsome boyfriend who has not intention of ever marrying anyone. It seemed to take forever to get anywhere and then once it did, the ending wrapped up awfully quick. Not a favorite at all.

Valerie says

A little long, but entertaining.

Donna says

This was a delightful palette cleanser after reading only non-fiction for the past several weeks. Briskly paced, witty, and satirical, "Close Relations" is a romantic comedy that lovingly sends up family relationships.

Shana says

This is probably my least favorite book I've read so far by Susan Isaacs. A seemingly smart, independent woman has a very co-dependent (and dismal) relationship with a man throughout the majority of the book and ends up with a seemingly perfect man at the very end. Ugh!

SirPoochala says

didn't like it. too much about stereotypes

Shobha Rajpal says

How can anyone not like this book!! :)

It's one of my security-blanket like books that I read and re read at least twice a year and escape to my happy place. It was a very realistic adult gritty yet all the more realistic for it version of all the romance novels I had been reading around that time.

I read it when I was just 17. As a Pakistani high schooler who had never thought of coming to states yet (other than vague plans to go to graduate school in some Ivy League college), I had no idea what New York was like let alone the ethnic makeup of the boroughs, this book was a delightful entry to that world. It's still as timeless for me, 25 years later, and now an American, as when I first read it. Only gets better each year. David Huffman is still my idea of real life fairy tale hero (oxymoronish I know).and Marcia my favorite protagonist. From the underbelly of New York politics to interfering extended family to distant parents to rebelliousness against family expectations to fear of commitment to need for maintaining your identity as a working professional beyond the roles of just being married to right person, it transcends different countries cultures religions ethnicities families and political leanings.

I love this book!

Ellen says

Shallow but entertaining

Beverly says

Very funny author.

Rebecca says

I like this author but hated this book. I hated all of the main characters. There were two or three minor characters who were decent, but they weren't in the story enough to save it.

I gave it two stars because I did finish it. But it did take me a long time to get through it.

This is an earlier books that the ones I have been reading by this author. I assume her style changed over the years, and I prefer her newer style.

Kathy says

It was written in the early 80's ..Marcia still had ribbon in her typewriter..
