



Sex, Doug, and a Rocky Road

Michele Bardsley

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A new full length novel by Michele Bardsley!

Ellie Johnson is a housewife and mother scorned. Hiring a private detective to check up on her husband Stan's late nights verifies her long-held suspicions of his outside activities.

Her name is Rose. She's blonde, big-boobed, and Australian.

Ellie is almost devastated by her husband's betrayal. Almost. As she deals with the fallout of her husband's affair, she begins to realize that she wasn't happy, either. In fact, she hadn't been happy in a long time, and the further she gets away from her marriage, the more she realizes how oppressed she'd felt in the housewife role she'd slipped into over the years.

Throw in Ellie's melodramatic, hypochondriac, alcoholic mother, revelations about her dead father's lascivious past, a comedy club faux pas, a yoga date gone wrong, the incident where "The Other Woman Almost Killed My Son with Tiny Shrimp," a very scary divorce attorney, and—well, and you have one messed-up former housewife.

And then there's Doug.

Doug is her ex-boyfriend—the man she dated before Stan "Whore-man" Johnson. Doug is a cop these days, older, but with the same muscles and chocolate-brown eyes she remembers from their college days. He's also made it abundantly clear he'd like to take up with Ellie where they left off more than fifteen years ago.

Ellie, however, is trying to go from married to unmarried, and her journey is messy, chaotic, and fraught with ice cream and booze. A lot of booze. Thank goodness for her best friend, Cindy, who stands by Ellie through thick, thin, and many cartons of Rocky Road ice cream.

Sometimes life just falls apart. And sometimes life is sex, Doug, and a rocky road.

Please note: SEX, DOUG, AND A ROCKY ROAD is being released as an exclusive read on Amazon Kindle!

Sex, Doug, and a Rocky Road Details

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Author : Michele Bardsley

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From Reader Review Sex, Doug, and a Rocky Road for online ebook

Linda says

Ellie thought that she was happily married until she found out that her husband of 15 years was cheating on her with an Australian Bimbo. Life as a divorced woman isn't really her cup of tea and she has some issues adjusting LOL! One of those is an ex who just happens to be handsome and a cop.

When life throws you lemons, make lemonade! A good read that any woman having relationship problems will relate to...

3 stars!

Bren says

A light, fun read. I was very pleased with this novel. I'm used to Michele's Broken Heart series, so it was a wonderful to read a more romantic non paranormal novel. Yes, I've read others by her, but this just fell into a really nice romance category. Normally I'm not one for "romance", but this was such a lovely novel. The struggle for the main female was one that made you feel for her.

Definitely a great, fun, read.

Rebecca says

This was an enjoyable read with lots of Ms. Bardsley's trademark humor. I wouldn't classify this as a romance, as the dissolution of the protagonist's marriage and her learning to stand up for herself are the central storyline. The heroine is tons of fun, however, and there's a sexy subplot with her ex from college.

Kimberlee says

This was free kindle read and I have to say I have always loved anything written by Michele Bardsley and she did well again with this story of a middle aged wife and mother who finds out her husband is cheating and her 15 year marriage was not all she thought it was. With the help of her best friend Cindy and a gorgeous ex-boyfriend named Doug she will be a survivor after all. Fun read

Anne-Kathrine says

On Note 2

Really enjoyed this book as well, Michele keep on writing :)

Al says

not her pnr, but pretty good

Karyn M says

Lots of fun to read. Good sense of humour and liked the angst of lead heroine over impending divorce. I would have liked to see more divorce proceedings, as they were hinted at but not fully realized. As well, the ending seemed rushed and a bit anti-climactic. A solid bum's rush for the lead nemesis would have been more satisfying. Still, an enjoyable read.

Sarah says

I liked this one much more than I thought I would. Ellie is a great, genuine character, and her attitude was perfect! I completely identified with her sense of loss, betrayal, and starting over. The humor, pain, and second chances felt natural.

Great story!!

Colleen says

A fun light read. More than once I actually laughed out loud. It is the story of divorce and learning to live again told in a honest way, yet looking at the bright, funny side.

Melissa says

Honestly, I'm glad that I got this book when it was free. The book was good, but it wasn't incredibly interesting. In fact, I felt like setting it down a couple of times.

The book wasn't much of a romance. There wasn't really anything romantic in it except for the fact that Ellie finds her ex-boyfriend Doug and they rekindle their relationship, which isn't very believable.

The entire book was essentially about Ellie and her husband's split, divorce, and her incredibly present sobbing and drinking.

Stef Stimson says

good for a quick read

Zili says

Michele Bardsley's contemporary romance serves as a relationship guide. The protagonist Ellie Johnson receives a life lesson on passion, marriage, family and the consequences of doing things for the wrong reasons.

Ellie has been with Stan for 16 years. She married him after previous boyfriend Doug 'a horny frat boy' (his words not mine) wanted them to see other people. Ellie has recently discovered Stan's affair and faces a custody battle over their son. Ellie thought she was happy as a housewife with boring, controlling Stan until he trades her in for a younger model.

The book is essentially Ellie coming to terms with her impending divorce and reassessing her marriage. A telling moment is when Ellie realises that her only really sexy memory of her soon to be ex-husband actually occurred with Doug. Doug is back in her life and as sexy as ever. Less horny frat boy, more sexy cop. Along with Doug, her bestie Cindy, her alcoholic mother, her patient son Joey, a drag queen, a boat load of wine and buckets full of rocky road flavoured ice cream, Ellie overcomes her issues and looks for real love and happiness.

Cindy was hilarious, as all good best friends should be. The scene with the pervy yoga instructor had me in stitches. I also really enjoyed the scene where Doug presents her with an axe (I'll leave you to find out why). Doug isn't blame free, he represents the 'be careful what you wish for' lesson. I enjoyed the story, although there were many times when I found myself extremely frustrated with Ellie. She repeatedly considers taking Stan back, glosses over all of his bad points (and there are many) and consistently makes excuses for him. A few times she was in danger of becoming a pushover, but she turned it around and progressed massively.

3.5 Stars

My fav non-spoilery quotes:

The old-boobs Pamela or the new-boobs Pamela?

That was a wine-cooler induced sexual mistake.

I'll tuck you into my bed and kiss you good night. Or? I'll tuck us both into bed and kiss you good morning.

See my blog for more reviews

Sharon Tyler says

Sex, Doug, And a Rocky Road by Michele Bardsley is a contemporary romance that deals with divorce and finding a new beginning. Ellie Johnson has been reasonably content as a housewife and mother for fifteen years. After becoming suspicious of her husband Stan's late nights she hires a detective to check up on him. The story opens with Ellie learning that Stan's late night activities include a buxom Australian named Rose. Feelings of betrayal, getting pulled over by an ex-boyfriend, divorce, and a custody battle lead Ellie on a personal mission to figure out where she goes from here. Add in an alcoholic mother, a great friend with a seemingly endless supply of alcohol, and that ex boyfriend that would not mind renewing their relationship

and Ellie will take readers on a ride of emotional ups and downs, including a few good laughs.

Sex, Doug, And a Rocky Road is not heavy on the romance, it is more about Ellie coming into her own. Her finding a path outside of being a housewife and mother that seems to do all the compromising to make a happy home. The soon to be ex-husband, Stan, is the very image of the controlling husband with no respect for Ellie, never mind her opinion or wants. I found myself getting tense and angry whenever he made an appearance, firmly reminding me of an ex of my own that I am glad to never have married. Doug, Ellie's ex boyfriend that makes an appearance on the scene when pulling over an inebriated Ellie, seems to be a sweet and witty man with a perfect mix of bad boy and hero. However, the romance take a backseat to the adventures Ellie has drinking with her best friend Cindy, cleaning house, and moving forward.

I have read quite a few books from Michele Bardsley, and enjoyed them all. I liked Sex, Doug, And a Rocky Road, but not as much as I enjoyed her paranormal romances. I liked that Ellie had a journey to discover what really makes her happy, rather than what she felt like she should do. Many of us find ourselves in that trap, doing what we suspect we should to make everyone else happy rather than being happy. However, I do have some doubts that a woman with an alcoholic mother would take to recreational drinking in stressful times, especially when it did have such an impact on her own life. Although, a bottle of wine and some serious ice cream sound good to me.

Sex, Doug, And a Rocky Road is a read full of self discovery, wine, and good fun. The humor is well done, as it the devastation and realizations that Ellie goes Readers that enjoy Bardsley's style will find it here, but heavier on the character growth and lighter on the romance and fun.
