



Hey Ladies!: The Story of 8 Best Friends, 1 Year, and Way, Way Too Many Emails

Michelle Markowitz , Caroline Moss , Carolyn Bahar (Illustrator)

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Based on the column of the same name that appeared in *The Toast*, *Hey Ladies!* is a laugh-out-loud read that follows a fictitious group of eight 20-and-30-something female friends for one year of holidays, summer house rentals, dates, brunches, breakups, and, of course, the planning of a disastrous wedding. This instantly relatable story is told entirely through emails, texts, DMs, and every other form of communication known to man.

The women in the book are stand-ins for annoying friends that we all have. There's Nicole, who's always broke and tries to pay for things in Forever21 gift cards. There's Katie, the self-important budding journalist, who thinks a retweet and a byline are the same thing. And there's Jen, the DIY suburban bride-to-be. With a perfectly pitched sardonic tone, *Hey Ladies!* will have you cringing and laughing as you recognize your own friends, and even yourself.

Hey Ladies!: The Story of 8 Best Friends, 1 Year, and Way, Way Too Many Emails Details

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The Book Maven says

I cannot believe I am doing this, but here I am, doing this:

I am putting this on my "Best Books of 2018" list.

"Why, Bookmaven?" you may ask. "Is your taste in books as bad as your taste in men?" (Spoiler alert: Duh.) I know, I know, and I am sorry! But I must honestly confess...after the first 20 pages, I couldn't put this book down (which for me is an important measure of how much I enjoy a book.) I *devoured* book within 16 hours of starting it, and I was working and out with friends during a large part of that same 16 hours. But that's not the only reason I love this book. I love it because it's awful and satirical and yet...so, so true to life.

The low-down: it's the story of 8 friends and their interactions over the course of a year, as one of them prepares for her wedding and the rest spend their time navigating the preparations and their personal dramas (read: questionable life choices.) The story is told through texts and emails, and after 20 pages of powering through insipid, aspirational bullshit and recaps of ridiculously delusional interpretations of events and passive sniping, I became addicted. Why? Because all of these females are...well, all of us. Reading through the reviews here, I can surmise we all identify with Gracie, the sensible, grounded, low-key one--who will sometimes try to steer conversations towards more weighty matters like Supreme Court decisions. But the more loathsome ladies--Ali and Caitlin, I'm giving you some major side-eye here--embody many characteristics that I know, I absolutely KNOW we all occasionally share. (Seriously, Ali and to a slightly lesser extent, Caitlin, is just about the literal worst.)

So, anyway, it's definitely escapist material. While it is definitely a reflection of the dynamics of a certain white cisgendered heterosexual privileged segment of the population, it's not a worthless book, by any stretch. You will laugh, and then you will promise yourself not to be an Ali.

Or a Caitlin.

Or a Jen.

Or a Nicole.

Or a Katie.

Or an Ashley.

Or a Morgan. (Okay, fine, Morgan is almost okay.) (Almost. I mean, she IS a hipster.)

Tamara says

Hey Ladies!!

When The Toast folded I didn't think I would ever again get my fix of these amazing email threads. When I read Caroline Moss and Michelle Markowitz were coming out with a whole freaking book of Ali, Jen, Gracie, and co., I was elated.

These emails are way too relatable and I hate the bit of me I see in many of these girls. (I like to think I'm a Gracie with a dash of Morgan, but real talk, I'm probably a Katie.)

Hey Ladies! is laugh-out-loud funny. Our girls exchange emails and texts over a year as they plan Jen's wedding and the attendant bridal showers, bachelorettes, hashtags, (#EternalBJ) etc. Along the way, the girls go to Virginia, the Hamptons, SoPu (aka South Portugal), and even venture to far-flung Brooklyn (once). They spend a shit ton of money, do a lot of SoulCycle, and worry about dudes way too much. Ah, your twenties.

Xo,

Tamara

"This book was so freaking funny and I really hope the epilogue is setting us up for a sequel," - Me, after finishing *Hey Ladies!*

Amy says

Every time I read a epistolary style book I always think about how fun it is and how I wish there were more novels written in this style. I think part of the appeal for me is that I feel like I'm getting a secret look at a side of people's normally private life. This is told solely via emails and texts and even though I know these are fictional characters I still love the intimacy this structure creates, it feels voyeuristic in a super fun way and I always end up binge reading these books in one sitting.

I want to make it clear that this isn't a book to be taken seriously at all, the characters are over the top outrageous and their antics and behaviors make them seem almost caricature like. There is no depth here, it's silly and hilarious and totally bonkers in the best possible way. These women are the type you love to hate, you wanna smack them upside the head often but you also cannot stop reading, I honestly enjoyed it SO much and if you like epistolary novels you have got to give this a shot, seriously laugh out loud funny!

Hey Ladies! in three words: Silly, Outlandish and Wild.

Alison says

Like another reviewer, I stayed up way too late so I could finish this book. I was a huge fan of the Hey Ladies column at The Toast, and the book is amazing. It's absolutely hilarious, and it builds on the original column in smart and funny ways. There are text messages in here! You get introduced to Helene, one of the Ladies' moms! And there are side plots and intrigue and ... it's just wonderful. I laughed out loud repeatedly.

Emily says

This is one of the funniest and most cringe-inducing things I've read, maybe ever. It is utterly ridiculous and 100% based in reality. I'm going to start gifting it immediately...

Mary says

Listen. Is this high literature? NOPE. Did I hate every single one of these characters at one point or another? YUP. (Except maybe Gracie. Also I might be her, down to the very last page. #owningit.) Was it thoroughly enjoyable and 100% bingeable and exactly what I needed over the holiday weekend? Absolutely yes.

I've been on this email thread. YOU have been on this email thread. Markowitz and Moss do a fantastic job of satirizing the tone of the unique vortex of the mass group email and female friendships on the whole. I laughed out loud and cringed noticeably and sped through it in no time.
3 ?????? for content, the fourth ?? for pure enjoyment.

Brooke Nuzie says

I almost feel weird giving this book 4 stars because it's not a "good" book. I read it in about 3 hours, and it was entertaining. I hated actually every character (except Gracie and probably Morgan), but I think because I read it fast it never became too much. In the beginning, I could see all my friends in each of the girls, but as it went on they became wayyyy too stereotypical and were less relatable. Still an overall enjoyable use of 3 hours!

Ngiste says

This is the Girls of fiction. I hate skimmed it. What could have been a funny exploration of modern female friendship was just an unending list of female caricatures. Not one character in this book was compelling or even mildly unselfish (much like girls). It was maybe satirical, but if so definitely didn't need to be novel length.

2 Stars because i wouldn't leap and tear this book out of someone's hands and wouldn't mind talking about all the ways this book was terrible with someone.

Lindsey Hresko says

Reading this book was like watching a marathon of Real Housewives: you can do it compulsively, but you sort of feel icky about yourself during and after the whole debacle. The book was easy to finish - I read it at a sprint - but the whole experience actually made me nauseous.

I get it. This is humor. Maybe even poorly executed social commentary. But while it had brief moments of

being relatable, everything was portrayed on such an exaggerated scale that it was all just cringe-worthy. These women were caricatures and were absolutely insufferable.

I have no idea what the authors were trying to say, here. White girls suck? Wedding culture sucks? We know. But listen, nothing in reality sucks nearly as much as these fictitious women. These women were portrayed as vapid and self-centered, with little to no nuance or intellect. It felt like authors were using satire to develop a highly judgmental laundry list entitled "If You're A Woman and You Do This You're 'Basic' and We All Know Basic is the Worst Thing You Can Be". Believe it or not, women in their 20s/30s can opt into SoulCycle and social media while still being intelligent, motivated, and kind.

Female friendships are complex but can ultimately be incredibly rewarding. The authors did us a disservice by spending 300 pages on The Bad and The Ugly, and not showing us any of The Good. It's 2018 -- can we write books about why women *should* be friends with each other?

Jamele (BookswithJams) says

I don't ever remember laughing out loud as much as I did during this read. I thoroughly enjoyed these ladies and their hot mess selves. I didn't expect the book to be in email format, but it made it so much better. Dying at the phrases after each email, because really, people do that and it's absurd, and omg I have replied all when I didn't mean to and had to deal with that awkwardness, but if it happens again I can just say - 'Whatevs, I'm not sorry, I'm just speaking my truth!' Seriously, I highly recommend this as an easy read, and as a fun read to brighten your day!!

Monica Kim says

I'm so glad I didn't spend a penny on this book and was able to skim throughout it pretty quick @ a bookstore. #sorrynotsorry

This maybe the most unnecessary, obnoxious book I came across, and definitely lost a few brain cells along the way. It's basically a book of emails between eight friends over a year period. It's your typical endless friend email thread that you probably have one or two in your box that you just can't seem to cut off. We're bombarded with emails, so reading a book about neverending thread is soul crushing, and just plain silly.

If you're looking for a light, fun "bathroom" read, this maybe a good one to have on your shelf, but otherwise, move on to your next. There's too many books, to little time.

Elise Fegler says

The only redeeming part of the book was that there were some parts of NYC I recognized. Otherwise the characters were horrendous, the friendships were nothing but toxic, and I didn't laugh once.

Abby Lance says

Listen, did I hate something about every single one of these women, except Gracie, who is me, and therefore perfect? Yes. They're all terrible people who you care about in the way you care about your family even though they're terrible. When *spoiler* can this book even have spoilers? Ali is passed over at first to walk down the aisle even I felt bad for her and I fucking hate her and my best friends name is Ali so that should really say something. The something that it should say is that you will hate all these women. And you will love them because they are not real but you know them and you cherish their bullshit all the way down because they're your women and I think that's what this book is about, in a roundabout way. I fucking loved it.

Ashley says

Here's the thing: I hated this book, I thought it was obnoxious and insufferable, and hated my life while I read it. However, damn, I couldn't stop reading it. This book is the definition of a train wreck. And, like, I get that that's the point, that's it's a satirical look at groups of girlfriends, and heck, I know I've sent my share of "Hey ladies!" emails... but ye gods. I didn't find this funny or amusing or anything but annoying.

The characters were all obnoxious. Again, that's the point, but still. At first, it's a lot to keep track of, but thankfully, they're all stereotypical and Flanderised that you don't really need to worry about who is who, even with the large cast of characters. The plot was minimal, and any time something exciting *could* happen, we obviously don't get to see it because they're not going to email each other while vacationing in SoPu (Southern Portugal) or whatever. So we only get a couple emails after about what a great vacay that was, and then back to whatever drivel the ladies needed to spew.

I was looking forward to a funny read, instead I think I lost a few brain cells. The only reason it gets two stars instead of one is because it was a very captivating read, in the most mindless sense possible.

Kari Ann Sweeney says

The blurb on the back of this book read, "This is the Bridget Jones's Diary of our time. By the way, Bridget Jones's Diary is a total masterpiece." I adore BJD - the books, the movies, the Colin. I'm here for all of it! I have a cat named Jones. So, I obviously had ridiculous expectations.

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I think it's supposed to be satire, but I could barely tolerate this book. The characters are vapid, passive aggressive and ridiculous. I am struggling to find something positive to say besides the fact that I dig the font treatment on the cover.

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I am clearly 15 years too old to appreciate this book. I've already had the BJD of MY time.

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