



Secret Confessions of the Applewood PTA

Ellen Meister

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At once tender and hilarious, this captivating story turns suburbia upside down, revealing the inner lives of three characters who have more humor, heartache, and heat than one PTA can hold

When a Hollywood location scout comes to Applewood, Long Island, and announces that the local elementary school might make the perfect backdrop for an upcoming George Clooney movie, the PTA's decorum crumbles like a cookie from last week's bake sale.

Enter Maddie, Ruth, and Lisa, three women who become the glue that holds the project together . . . and wind up forging a bond of friendship stronger than anyone could imagine.

A good thing, too, because each one of them is about to come apart. Maddie Schein, an ex-lawyer trying hard to fit in and save her marriage, gets knocked off balance by Jack Rose, an old college friend hell-bent on seducing her. Ruth Moss—rich, sexy, and outspoken—has more to give and less to enjoy than most people think. Indeed, since her husband's stroke left him embarrassingly uninhibited yet completely impotent, she's more of a caretaker than a wife. And modest Lisa Slotnick, a loving parent who wants nothing more than to fade into the scenery as she tends to her children, must deal with the humiliation of being thrust into the spotlight by her scandalous, alcoholic mother.

When these three get together, a powerful alliance is formed. But is it strong enough to overcome the obstacles to getting the movie made in their town? And will their friendship be enough to mend their hearts and homes? Join them as they reach for the stars . . . and try to pull off a Hollywood ending of their own.

Secret Confessions of the Applewood PTA Details

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Author : Ellen Meister

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From Reader Review Secret Confessions of the Applewood PTA for online ebook

Michelle says

Hilarious!

April Sousa says

fun... reminded me a little of bad moms... the movie.

Merceda says

Cute book overall. A lot of romances outside of marriage (sort of). Made it interesting. Keith was a hoot. Nancy was as well as the drunken mother who never took care of Lisa, but ended up saving her twin boys in the house next door when it erupted in flames after the boys turned on the stove. Maddie ended up staying with her husband and they fell back in love.

Jenine Young says

This was a pretty terrible book. I listened to it on CD or I never would have made it as far as I did. It wasn't just a fluffy beach read, it was downright pointless. Every other chapter was a completely graphic sex scene of someone cheating on their spouse. And the moral of the story? Your husband has a stroke and can't move? Cheat on him! Your lover disses you? Cheat on him too! Scream at the girl he ends up getting engaged too! Make a giant mess of your life and drive drunk and treat people horribly and everything will end up great. Your family will love you. Your friends will support you. Every wild dream you have will come true.

What a joke.

KristenR says

OK...it may be a complete indulgence that I give this book 5 stars, but it was thoroughly entertaining. The characters are equally flawed, inspiring, and hilarious.

A quick, enjoyable read.

Myfanwy says

What you notice first and foremost about Ellen Meister's debut novel is how humane she is as a writer. The women she writes about are real--they are not caricatures, they are not stereotypes. Instead they fall down, they embarrass themselves, they lose control. They lust, they fight, they envy, they are jealous. They are passionate, they are smart, they love. Basically, they are human.

And in that, we love them and we root for them. And when the book is at its end, we have a hard time letting them go.

Hard for me to say which of the three main characters is my favorite: is it the brilliant Maddie, who loses some of her self-esteem over the years when she believes that her marriage is broken beyond repair? Or is it quiet and unassuming Lisa, who seethes beneath the surface after a lifetime of taking care of her selfish mother? Or is it Ruth, who lost not only her husband but also the better part of herself after his stroke?

The truth is, they are all my favorites.

I cheered when Maddie realized that her marriage was only wounded from a bit of overuse, and when Lisa realized that she is her own best mother, and when Ruth regained the love of herself and all of the glories she has to offer the world. I cheered because I felt genuine affection for all of these women. I cherished their success and felt comforted by their friendship.

But don't let the serious tone of this reader fool you. What you should know is that this book is also funny. Indeed, there are times when you will laugh out loud and shake your head in wonder at Meister's impeccable sense of timing (not to mention her eye for physical humor).

In short, the book's a gem. And no less a gem is the audio companion--Lisa Kudrow reads with an exceptional ear for character, comedy, and good storytelling. In fact, I can't think of a better reader for the book. My favorite characterization of hers would have to be when she took on Ruth. The voice was exactly as I had heard Ruth in my head.

And so the bringing together of Meister's words and Kudrow's reading means some classic entertainment. You won't want to miss out.

Buy the book, buy the audio. Let yourself be wooed and wowed.

Madam says

Silly, stupid and predictable. Trots out every tired cliché -- alcoholism, affairs, strokes, cancer, sexual dysfunction, sexual identity, suburban skulduggery, and George Clooney. Actually, that list is more interesting than the book -- trust me. Don't waste time or brain cells on this sorry mess.

Joanne says

This book was total trash. It was an embarrassment to women! Seriously it treated women like we are no more than dogs in heat, unable to control any passion. I was very disappointed.

Lisa says

This book had me laughing out loud at some points, crying at others. I loved some characters and hated others, but I think that everyone recognizes someone they know in them. This book was like a breath of fresh air for me to read. The ending is a mixture of sadness, and happily ever after, sort of like real life. Because of this type of ending, it isn't typical chic lit.

Heather says

After hearing much praise, I picked up Meister's debut novel. I must say I was not disappointed. I thought the book was well paced, carefully crafted, and excellently delivered.

The book has a lot of heart, makes you feel for its characters and a little sad when it is over. However, I would recommend this to anyone. I found it to be a quick and enjoyable read.

Sharon says

One word - bad.

Sariah says

I picked this up at the library, looking for a fun chick-lit to quickly read that would give me a good time. This had all the workings of just that sort of book... but it fell a bit flat. There were inconsistencies between how the main characters were introduced to us and how they really were. I liked our 3 main women (Maddie, Lisa, and Ruth) overall, and I liked that they seem pretty real in that they are "regular", flawed individuals. However, why didn't we get more story on Beryl? And Ruth was introduced as if we weren't supposed to like her because she was flashy and obnoxious. And Lisa seemed too frumpy and timid at first for us to really relate to her. Anyway, I love a story that shows women in their friendships and how well they support each other, but everything was just too abrupt. It was all, "Oh no, I don't want to be on the committee with Ruth. Now she's my BEST. FRIEND." It was weird. Also... waaaaay too much emphasis on sex, waaaaay too many graphic sex scenes, and waaaaaaay too many F words.

Kara says

Ugh. This is the worst of what Mommy Chic Lit can be. Vapid and vain characters. Stupid plot lines.

Becca says

The big seller of this one? Simple: "Read by Lisa Kudrow" on the CD case.

Alas, even the amazing Lisa couldn't save this boring book.

Maybe I should reserve judgment until I'm a sex-starved, insecure mother of 3 involved in the PTA.

Nah.

Betsy says

Moral of the story - any marriage can be made better by cheating. UGH. I feel like I need to wash my hands after touching this book.
