



## Shoe Addicts Anonymous

*Beth Harbison*

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## **Shoe Addicts Anonymous** Beth Harbison

Helene Zaharis's politician husband keeps her on a tight leash and cancels her credit cards as a way of controlling her. Lorna Rafferty is up to her eyeballs in debt and can't stop her addiction to Ebay. Sandra Vanderslice, battling agoraphobia, pays her shoe bills by working as a phone sex operator. And Jocelyn Bowen is a nanny for the family from hell (who barely knows a sole from a heel but who will do anything to get out of the house).

On Tuesday nights, these women meet to trade shoes, and, in the process, form friendships that will help them each triumph over their problems—from secret pasts to blackmail, bankruptcy, and dating. Funny, emotional, and powerful, *Shoe Addicts Anonymous* is the perfect read for any woman who has ever struggled to find the perfect fit.

## **Shoe Addicts Anonymous Details**

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Author : Beth Harbison

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## **From Reader Review Shoe Addicts Anonymous for online ebook**

### **Debbie says**

A fun book about shoes bringing a diverse group of women together. The unlikely group forms a very strong bond. It's interesting to watch the development of the relationships and the addiction to shoes!

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### **?? Carmen the Bootyshaker Temptress ?? says**

I needed something fun to read and this book fit the bill. A group of women who are addicted to shoe shopping. They end up becoming friends while trading shoes but also each of these women have an issue that need to be fixed. This was a fun book to read. Helene is a bit nuts with shoes and definitely an addict but she was also my favorite character. I love shoes like anyone else but wow this was an overload and OMG the debt!

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### **Dina says**

Okay book club girls don't read this if you aren't done with the book. I wanna type this out now so I don't forget what I was thinking.

I had a really hard time starting this book and it seemed to be a struggle for me to keep reading. The loyal book clubber that I am made me wade on through. The reason that I had such a problem with it was that I don't care about shoes. I've heard some of the high end names and I have held a pair of Jimmy Choo's but it just doesn't do it for this girl. I also was uncomfortable with poor Lorna's financial situation. I was there and could very easily fall back into the in debt status. Meeting Helene frustrated me because I hate hearing about a woman being cut off by her husband especially a cheating one! Sandra was a cutie and I could almost relate to her because there are plenty of times I hate leaving my house and the phone sex thing was classic. Lastly good ol' Joss... uggghhhh quit the damn job already.

After meeting the girls I wanted to scream at them and the stereo typical situations that they were in. But....

After 200 pages and a lot of stopping and starting it was starting to get bearable. I liked that the girls became such close friends and started looking out for each other. That they had those long nights of laughing and drinking and just having a good time. Of course we had the happily ever after ending and all the things that bugged me work out just peachy. (yes there is a little sarcasm there)

I was disappointed in the fact that nobody in the midst of all the secrets coming out even brought up Mike's orientation to Sandra but maybe it worked out better the way it did. It was kinda funny but if they were all becoming such close friends and cared about her feelings I would think that it would have been brought up. Oh well... I'm not an author and like I typed before maybe it was better the way it was.

Sorry about my rant, normally I don't do that and I could take and delete it all but...

I would never tell anyone not to read this book because I am sure what bugs me doesn't bug my friends. I have a feeling most of the girls in the club will like it but it just wasn't for me.

On to the next book.

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### **Christa says**

This wasn't a bad book, but I found at least the first hundred or so pages to be fairly depressing. The book is equally about four female characters, and the beginning chapters are devoted to learning about them and their problems. Each of the characters is facing some large issue, making the book start off heavy and dreary. As the characters meet and get to know one another, the tone does lighten up some. The issues were all dealt with, and the book ended on a much happier note than that on which it began.

Helene Zaharis is the unhappy trophy wife of a controlling senator. When he finds out that Helene is thwarting his effort to begin a family, he retaliates by cancelling all of her credit cards and cutting her off financially. This is devastating to Helene, since shoe shopping is the one bright activity in her life that helps her cope with the rest.

Lorna Rafferty hasn't been able to find a realistic use for her degree in English, so she works as a waitress. Her love of shoes seems to have gone past rational and become a real addiction. She has run up over thirty thousand dollars of credit card debt and is unable to pay her bills because of her shoe habit. Obviously, she has to find a way to stop this unreasonable spending, but how will she survive without new shoes?

Sandra Vanderslice has spent her life being cruelly teased about being overweight. She is so self-conscious that she hates to be in public. It has gotten to the point that she rarely leaves her apartment, and she knows that she is battling agoraphobia. She is trying to get help, but that is difficult when she has to talk to her therapist on the phone instead of going to the office in person. She spends her days in her apartment as a phone sex operator, and her one joy is internet shopping, especially for shoes.

Jocelyn Bower is an innocent young woman who comes to the city and finds employment as a live-in nanny. Jocelyn loves children, but her two wards are difficult, and their mother is impossible. Jocelyn is expected to perform all sorts of household duties that are not in her contract. She is rarely free of her duties at the 8pm listed on her contract, and her employer tries to wrangle her out of her two days off per week. Jocelyn realizes that in order to have any time off, she must leave the house, but she doesn't have anywhere to go.

Lorna's desire to find a way to obtain shoes even in her difficult financial situation leads her to write an online ad inviting other shoe addicts who wear a size 7 1/2 to meet and trade designer shoes. This ad intrigues lonely Helene and brings her to Lorna's apartment. Sandra sees the ad while she is trying to bolster herself into leaving her apartment, and she decides this looks like somewhere she could go. The three women bond quickly, and begin to meet each Tuesday night. A few weeks later, Jocelyn, who wears size six shoes and is just looking for somewhere to go, joins the group. Since the Tuesday meeting is a time for shoe addicts to trade shoes, Jocelyn pretends to love shoes and shops secondhand stores so that she can swap designer shoes with the others. Eventually, the four women feel comfortable enough with one another to share their troubles. As the bond between the friends grows, they work together to face and solve the issues that trouble them.

The title and description of this book lead me to believe that it would be a somewhat light chick-lit type of

book. Since quite a few chapters of the book were nothing but learning of the problems of the characters, it made the book a much heavier read than I expected. I was satisfied by the way the issues were resolved, and I will read the sequel.

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### ♥ Marlene♥ says

Finished it this morning. Really enjoyed it. Just a fun read. yes it was bit how do you say that, where those things do not happen in real life, but I had fun non the less.

Might want to get my hands on the other book by this author.

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### Tiffany says

A friend and I have taken to exchanging books that we've enjoyed reading. I was intrigued when she loaned me Shoe Addicts Anonymous. At first the title threw me off a little because I'm not a shoe addict myself (although purses are another story, lol) But once I started reading this book I realized it's more about the bonds that women can form and how important friendship can be than it is about shoes.

Shoe Addicts Anonymous throws four unlikely strangers together from a personal ad on 'Gregslist' posted by a woman who is drowning in debt. She loves shoes so much that she decides if she can't afford new ones; there are other women online (with her shoe size) in her same predicament and maybe they can swap conversation and more importantly, designer shoes by meeting up once a week.

Several women respond to the ad and through their weekly meetings they form an unlikely friendship and support system.

This book is a great read and a reminder of how important female friendship can be. I highly recommend it.

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### Vee Charles says

This book was pretty funny and I laughed out loud a few times. (\*^\_^\*)

The thing I liked most about this story is that every woman was from a different class, facing different struggles yet their common interest (as funny as it was) brought them together without judgement to build an extremely strong friendship.

I really appreciated the way Harbison pulled all these personalities together. It's hard not to relate to at least one character or a few things about every character.

This book made me laugh, think, get angry and now I want to go shoe shopping...lol!

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### Rainey Williams says

This was okay. An easy chick-lit read. Not a lot of substance.

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### **Mickey Reed says**

This book is hilarious! I laughed pretty hard a couple times. These are characters we can all relate to! They're slightly down on their luck, they're working crappy jobs, they're putting up with cheating and slimy men, and they're shy and overweight. They each have a trait or characteristic that makes this book personable and humorous.

A coworker recommended this book, so I was all over it. After finishing it, it didn't seem like a book she would have read and enjoyed, but she really did. We both did, so this book can really reach and touch many an audience. It's a feel-good, funny book, and the narrator does a fabulous job!

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### **Gina says**

I was looking for something light and fun, and this book definitely delivered. It had all of the great components of a "beach" book, and it discussed the characters' love of shoes. How can you not like that?

The characters were all well developed, and one of them (Helene) was so interesting that I would love to read a book just featuring her. The writing was fast-paced and easy, making it perfect for my day spent in bed with a cold.

The basic plot is about women who meet because of their love of shoes but end up becoming unlikely friends. Lorna is in debt up to her ears because of her shoe addiction and she decides that one way to cope with the fact that she shouldn't buy any more shoes is to start a club where shoe lovers can get together and "swap." Then there's Helene, the politician's wife, who is forced to live with a controlling husband in a loveless marriage. Next we meet Sandra, a virtual shut-in who is agoraphobic, but finds enough strength to try going to the club. Finally there's Joss, the youngest and least well-developed character, who works as a nanny for an absentee mother who is more demanding than Miranda Priestly. The novel explores the lives of each of these women and how their mutual love of shoes allows their friendship (and their lives) to thrive.

The one complaint I have about the book was that everything was neatly tied up in the end. But then again, that's the nature of chick lit. It was a fun, easy read that I would recommend.

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### **Kristenhaynes2 says**

I liked this book a lot. Yes, it's a bit vapid and implausible, but whatever, it's chick lit! I'm glad someone finally showed that women in DC have style and excellent taste in luxury. While I'm not part of the exquisitely elite, I could appreciate a lot of the name brands, political parties, money manners, and behaviorisms of the supporting characters in this book. I DO wish that the author would have gone more into areas where the women could have gotten shoes, mentioning the blossoming U Street Corridor or trendy Arlington, but instead she stuck to the trademark areas of Bethesda, Georgetown, Adams Morgan, and Dupont Circle. #1, I want to know what a WAITRESS is doing with an apartment in Bethesda, \$30k in shoe debt, and a car with a car note. All of that TOGETHER does not usually happen. There's only one complex I know of in Bethesda where the rent is less than a G per month (and that's WITHOUT utilities). I think a

TRUE shoe addict would move to Gaithersburg or Montgomery Village (since her expensive taste seemed to be limited to her feet) so she could spend MORE money on shoes. I have a friend who lives at home, primarily so she can afford her pseudo-fabulous life because in the real world she'd have to have two jobs, no car, a sugar daddy, and three roommates sharing a two-bedroom in Anacostia to afford her indulgences. I like the way that all of the women came together, and the crazy antics they got in to. The ending was a little "deus a machina (sp?)" but I wanted something a little vacant to read for the weekend. It's a fun, silly, predictable book that will make any shoe admirer or DC urbanite smile and occasionally LOL.

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### **Nicole says**

I really enjoyed this book and loved how the girls found friends with strangers. It reminds me of my book club we started as strangers but have become really great friends from a mutual interest. This book was great, it was light and entertaining. A perfect summer pool read.

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### **Beth says**

I've never heard of Beth Harbison ...but I was suck into this world and loved every moment. hilarious read. I love all these ladies. I am picking a fave character, going with Helene. But all those characters will have ya curious where this read will go??! i love shoes, not that i am an addict ...but they sure are gorgeous. i can appreciate their beauty and style! I was totally pulled in my the cover and the fact that I found a new author and it was only \$3 bucks at Dollar General! Score! I will be checking out more from Beth very very soon. Suggestions please. Must read. If you are looking for a read that is not heavy, will make ya laugh. ( ;

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### **Kelly D says**

I felt that there were a few threads left undone and a few plot lines that were under developed. I was anxious for the end of the book so I could move on to the next book on my night stand.

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### **Aparna says**

It was good fun, considering I feel half my life is wanted if i dont buy at least a pair of shoes evey month. Of course, the book is over the top. Irrespective of HOW MUCH one likes shoes, there is a point where a normal person can draw the line (work as a phone-sex operator to buy a pair - make that TWO - one in black and one in a deep pink of Ralph Laurens, realy????). Which is really ironic, coz all these woman are potrayed as normal people, albeit with an abnormal liking for shoes.

So you have Helene, who prefers the click-clack of Bruno Maglis' and Emilio Pucci's to the pitter-patter of little feet. Add a dominating husband, a "dark" past, and some blackmail, and you have one sub plot (which could well be one for some female-oriented (i HATE the word "chick", sorry!!) B grade summer thriller).

And the waitress Lorna, who uses \$3 tips to calculate her credit card payments, to buy a \$175 Delmans. Logic? Really? The whole shoe-swapping club is her idea, born more out of desperation, and a self-identified sickness for footwear. What she cannot buy, she will swap. Brilliant. She seems to be the most believable character of the lot, since she seems the most real.

Joss the harried nanny who uses the "club", Shoe Addicts Anonymous only as an excuse to get out Thursday night. Totally unnecessary. Yeah, women will bond, whether they are in a group of 3 or 4, and although I agree with you, Beth, the more the merrier, they do not say "Three(four) is a crowd", without good reason. The battling agoraphobic Sandra, the shoe-crazy phone-sex operator (who does what she does ONLY to support her shoe addiction, and we are supposed to feel sorry for her!! Yeah, rrrrright), who is super-observant, borderline geeky, and who can calmly guzzle orange juice while listening to some guy describing how he likes to have someone go down on him.

It is mildly entertaining, no doubt, and there are no "typical" happy endings, and no men going down on their feet and slipping the lovely dame's foot with a perfect-fit 7and1/2. It has more to do with the subtle bonds of same-gender friendship that we generally take for granted (I SO miss my girls now!).

That still doesn't justify WHY we look down on helpless people with a foot fetish who can't but fantasize over pretty feet and painted toenails, but can accept the fact that women could trade their comfort, bodies, and marriage for hardly a square foot of leather(PETA?? Where are you when stuff like this is promoted and hyped?).

All in all, not a bad deal if you like your uncountable pairs of shoes!

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