



# Girls in White Dresses

*Jennifer Close*

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## Girls in White Dresses Jennifer Close

Wickedly hilarious and utterly recognizable, *Girls in White Dresses* tells the story of three women grappling with heartbreak and career change, family pressure and new love—all while suffering through an endless round of weddings and bridal showers.

Isabella, Mary, and Lauren feel like everyone they know is getting married. On Sunday after Sunday, at bridal shower after bridal shower, they coo over toasters, collect ribbons and wrapping paper, eat minuscule sandwiches and doll-sized cakes. They wear pastel dresses and drink champagne by the case, but amid the celebration these women have their own lives to contend with: Isabella is working at a mailing-list company, dizzy with the mixed signals of a boss who claims she's on a diet but has Isabella file all morning if she forgets to bring her a chocolate muffin. Mary thinks she might cry with happiness when she finally meets a nice guy who loves his mother, only to realize he'll never love Mary quite as much. And Lauren, a waitress at a Midtown bar, swears up and down she won't fall for the sleazy bartender—a promise that his dirty blond curls and perfect vodka sodas make hard to keep.

With a wry sense of humor, Jennifer Close brings us through those thrilling, bewildering, what-on-earth-am-I-going-to-do-with-my-life years of early adulthood. These are the years when everyone else seems to have a plan, a great job, and an appropriate boyfriend, while Isabella has a blind date with a gay man, Mary has a crush on her boss, and Lauren has a goldfish named Willard. Through boozy family holidays and disastrous ski vacations, relationships lost to politics and relationships found in pet stores, *Girls in White Dresses* pulls us deep inside the circle of these friends, perfectly capturing the wild frustrations and soaring joys of modern life.

## Girls in White Dresses Details

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Author : Jennifer Close

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# From Reader Review *Girls in White Dresses* for online ebook

## Kristin says

This wasn't a bad book, and in fact the writing was quite good. Normally I'm not a fan of the whole interrelated story style, but I enjoyed it here. I think my problem is that despite the fact that I'm the same age as all the women in the stories, I couldn't relate to them at all. They're so focused on trivial things, they make terrible choices, they settle for men they don't seem to love in order to avoid being alone. I really need characters that I can like more if I'm going to like a book. Also, and this is just a personal quirk, for some reason I find it much harder to like New Yorkers than Londoners in this sort of book. Weird but true.

White I'm shelving this as chick lit, it's not that chick lit-ty. There were some mildly amusing parts and even parts that made me laugh out loud, but they weren't as prominent as one might expect. It does offer an interesting perspective on the lives of young city women with those few laughs as well.

Because the writing was good, I think I would happily read something else by Jennifer Close, depending on the subject matter.

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## Caitlin says

Blerg. I'm going to get this out of the way up front. I did not like this book. Reasons:

1. There is no plot. There are a bunch of girls (I could not for the life of me tell you how many, see point 2). They are between 21 and 30 years old. They are not married, but people they know are. They are living in New York or Chicago and they have jobs that they hate. Each chapter consists of a kind of episodic event (or nonevent), mostly to do with boys who they don't really like that much, but date anyway. This is the whole book. No character progression, no conflict, no resolution. Just stuff.

2. I could not remember which characters were which. In addition to the absence of a plot, there was also an absence of any discernible differences between the characters, which made them just names to me. The very cute cover (I give credit where credit is due, good job designers) is also sadly accurate. They are faceless girls in white dresses (though they spend less time in weddings than the cover and title might suggest...I think there were two wedding-related scenes total). Because the characters all had basically the same voice and no personality to speak of, I had to basically relearn who each person was at the beginning of their next chapter. I found myself flipping back to their previous sections just to get some kind of context. There's one girl named Isabella who gets mentioned more than the other ones, so I could generally remember her when she showed up, but I couldn't quite remember what I knew about her. Where did she live again? What kind of job did she have? Was she the waitress or the publishing assistant? Flat. All flat.

3. The writing is childlike, featureless and completely un compelling. See points one and two. Large casts of characters and a vignette writing style can work. But not in the hands of a poor writer. Whole paragraphs would pass with exchanges similar to the following: "Mary moved to New York. She went to her job every day and didn't like it. After awhile she found an apartment and moved in. She started to like it."

I mean, seriously?

Admittedly, I don't normally read a lot of what we call "chick lit". Maybe this is what a lot of chick lit is like! I thought I'd give it a try since I was looking for something easy and sweet. I thought, "oh my gosh, I've been in a ton of weddings! Maybe I'll find this funny and relatable." But I did not. Maybe there's a reason I don't read this genre. Maybe my lesson is learned.

That's all I have to say. You have been warned.

Want to read more of my reviews? Visit [yearofmagicalreading.wordpress.com](http://yearofmagicalreading.wordpress.com).

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## Julie Ehlers says

If I had to choose a food metaphor for *Girls in White Dresses*, I'd say this book was the equivalent of a DoubleStuf Oreo. Not very edifying, and as far as indulgences go it's not a high-quality one, but you're going to enjoy it anyway and keep going back for more until the box is empty. Or at least, I did.

*Girls in White Dresses* is a book about a group of college friends in the 10 years following graduation, and as such hits all of the usual milestones: moving around a lot, figuring out your career, dating various people, attending your friends' weddings, having your own wedding (or not), having kids (or not). It is less a novel than a collection of interlinked short stories. The humor is rather gentle and the stakes are generally quite low, but relatable--my favorite story involves a character who goes on a ski trip with her new boyfriend and his friends. She doesn't really know how to ski herself and doesn't enjoy it, but she tries to be a good sport even though all she wants to do is sit in the lodge. Eventual embarrassment occurs, of a sort I could understand completely. As the Goodreads reviews reveal, many readers find this kind of thing boring or pointless, but for some reason I love reading these "not much happens" stories as long as the writing is good. And I did think the writing was good--pretty much impeccable for what it was setting out to do, in fact.

I have only one complaint about this book, but it's a big one: not one of these girls seems to have an actual personality. They're not really interested in anything. They have no hobbies or passions. Their jobs, for the most part, are just things they do. There are no original thinkers in their midst. In contrast, the men they date have interesting careers, actual hobbies (like skiing), or are passionate about effecting social change--and the women often gripe about these passions and how they keep their men from spending more quality time with them. Girls, instead of complaining, how about you get some interests of your own? It was difficult for me to reconcile this glaring flaw with an otherwise well-done book, and it eventually did affect my overall enjoyment (and rating) of *Girls in White Dresses*.

In the end, I would have trouble recommending this book to anyone in spite of its many appealing qualities--but at the same time, I am very eager to check out the work Close is doing now that she's a bit older and has a few books under her belt. In this spirit, I look forward to *The Hopefuls* and am hopeful I'll be able to assign it a better rating than *Girls in White Dresses*.

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## Grace says

Jennifer Close portrayal of twenty-something women trying to navigate the adult world of careers, boyfriends, husbands, babies, and the changes that these life events bring to their friendships with their girlfriends is spot on. As a twenty something myself, I knew the plights Isabella, Mary, and Lauren faced as

they sent out countless resumes, dated the wrong guy in search of the right one, or ended up in a dead end job that was just supposed to pay the bills until the career job materialized.

Even with this shared experiences, I just couldn't get into this book. It was a combination of the writing style and the author taking on more than she could manage in the narrative. The book begins in this stilted and dare I say awkward tone that was more jarring to me than anything else. My mind couldn't immerse itself in the flow of the book because it just didn't flow. Sentences were short and incredibly simplistic. I felt like I was reading a middle schooler's short story rather than a published novel by an MFA graduate. As the novel progressed, Close's style bothered me less - whether that is because the style improved or I grew accustomed to the abrupt sentences, I'm not sure.

Or maybe I stopped noticing because I was too busy trying to figure out who the parade of women were, if they were the same women from chapter to chapter, and how the hell they all knew each other. This book isn't just about Isabella, Mary, and Lauren. It's also about Abby, Ellen, Shannon, Kristi, Cate... but these ladies are not billed as main characters. They are somehow connected to the three 'main characters', but sometimes are the focus of an entire chapter. If it wasn't for the book jacket telling me this book was about Isabella, Mary, and Lauren, I wouldn't have known. I gave up trying to figure out how they all fit into the novel. It's a shame that the cast of characters in this book grew so large because it took away from the main characters and left everyone a little shallow and underdeveloped.

And then there was the chapter featuring Shannon and Dan... Shannon's boyfriend Dan leaves town to work on a presidential campaign for 'The Candidate.' All of the information in the chapter blatantly revealed that the candidate was Barack Obama; however, the author never mentioned him by name. I thought this was due to legal issues or the author not wanting to 'date' her book by referencing something that could easily correlate her book to a specific year/time period. Then, Michael Jackson died. There went my theory about the author not wanting to date her book. And she didn't even mention Farrah Fawcett who died on the same day. It's small, seemingly trivial, things like this that turn me off from a book.

Girls in White Dresses was a disappointment because it didn't live up to the potential that the concept had or the hype I had heard about it. I couldn't relate or empathize with any of the characters because there wasn't just much to them except an over abundance of issues that women in their twenties face. There were no laugh out loud moments or even any tears. It was just a book to finish because I started reading it.

This review originally appeared on Feeding My Book Addiction:  
<http://feedingmybookaddiction.blogspot...>

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## **Crystal says**

I didn't like it, but I enjoyed it, if that makes any sense.

This was an extremely readable book. The observations were funny and the situations identifiable. However, as some other reviewers observed, the narration and characters get mired in the negatives, and there were not enough positives to make this novel work for me. I felt like my own past ten years of rage had been distilled into one book. Reading this at times felt cathartic, but mostly made me frustrated, as I don't really think I wanted to relive all the sensations, stacked one after the other with no pick-me-up or small victory along the way. This stopped me short of feeling the intended intimacy with the story and characters.

I did not feel that the characters had unique voices, which could be intended, but frustrated me. Furthermore, they did not change; collectively, they were a mass of complaining twenty-somethings on their quarter life crisis stage. And then they got older and some of them managed to get married. And they kept on complaining.

Still, stacked up against chick lit, this was much more enjoyable than most of other works I've read in the genre. Close is a very readable writer. And I did snicker a lot. And so I can't give this less than three stars. And I know I'd recommend it for some friends. Only the closest ones. So I guess that counts for more than most books.

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### **Jovani says**

This book embodies everything I can't stand about some women! How they can be completely pathetic when it comes to love and relationships. Every character (don't even ask me their names bc I couldn't keep up) was involved in one train wreck after another. The most infuriating part is that each women single handedly sabotaged every relationship they were in! I knew it was bad when I started siding with the men the majority of the time. I thought I was going to read a book about women finding out that there's more to life than "White Dresses", Weddings and Babies... Like an education, career, friends and family. Turns out it was the complete opposite and a huge disappointment.

The book should have been called, "Race to the Altar"

My favorite quote from the book because it couldn't have been more true,

"The peahens waddled round, following the peacock wherever he went. He couldn't see in the night, so he wandered around aimlessly in the pen."

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### **Jocelyn says**

Jennifer Close's debut novel *Girls in White Dresses* explores the complexity of being a single woman. The novel follows the lives of three women, Lauren, Isabella and Mary, as they navigate the often treacherous waters of relationships, friendships, work, and the fear of the unknown. The novel is told in a series of connecting stories and is a wonderful approach as it allows the reader to observe small moments within the lives of these women. Each character is real and authentic and the writing is pitch perfect. Conversations between characters are so honest that you will feel you are listening in on conversations you have had with your own friends. A sign of a great book is when you forget you are reading and are just trying to learn more about the characters lives. This is exactly what happened when reading *Girls in White Dresses*. I think most women will identify with many of the experiences of these characters. Experiencing the lives of others, vicariously through literature, is a truly wonderful and unique adventure. When you can relate to characters, it makes that experience even more meaningful. We read to learn about new lives but also to learn more about ourselves. *Girls in White Dresses* will give every woman a glimpse into their own lives from an outside, objective perspective and you will find yourself recommending it to all of your girlfriends.

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### **Laura says**

It started out as mildly entertaining and then spiraled downhill into a vodka, martini and tequila soaked disaster. Reasons for my disgust below:

1. There is no plot. How did this book get published? There is no conflict, no resolution. NOTHING REALLY HAPPENS THROUGH THE WHOLE BOOK!
  2. Ms. Close manages to reinforce society's perception of single women. Apparently if you didn't get that ring by spring your final year of college you are destined to move to a hip, happening city, rent a tiny apartment you can barely afford with your crappy entry level job, drink lots of alcohol and spread your legs for anything with a penis that looks at you over the bar.
  3. There is a cacophony of female characters with no real defining characteristics of attributes that set them apart from each other. I had to keep referring back to the "book extras" provided on the Kindle edition I was reading because I couldn't keep them straight. Want to know why I could not keep them straight? Because their character descriptions would have all read similar to point 2 listed above. Typically a large cast of characters is no real trouble for me...I've manage the Outlander series, the Fire and Ice series and others just fine. But the little twits running around in this trash had no character in every sense of the expression.
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### **Nikki Wilde says**

I am almost at a loss for words. I have no idea how to review this. The back cover say's that this will perfectly capture the wild frustrations and soaring joys of modern life. I can honestly say, that for me, the only thing soaring were my frustrations with this book.

It reads monotonously. We got summer sausage, we cut the summer sausage. I couldn't even keep the characters names straight and I didn't even care. I started despising the characters. Honestly, Isabella was so annoying. She didn't even try to get along with her boyfriends friends. I don't even know why Harrison wanted to be with her.

The only character I liked was Abby with her strange parents. It was the only mildly entertaining piece of the entire novel. Too bad she was such a small part of this.

I really disliked the ending. When I thought we were getting somewhere with Isabella it just stops. No point whatsoever. I actually turned the page looking for more, although, I should have been happy with it ending. I suppose in a way the ending was the best part for me because it meant it was over.

It might sound like I'm being harsh but it just drones on and on with no feeling or growth. I'm not even sure how some people gave this 5 stars. It was terrible. I don't say that lightly either. I never enjoy giving bad reviews but I just have to throw my two cents in. I'm not even sure where the author was trying to go with this one.

Amazon Vine provided this book for my honest opinion.  
<http://www.amazon.com/Girls-White-Dre...>

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### **Ashley Deniz says**

When Amazon sent me a recommendation for this book I was so excited. I am in that exact place in my life

where I am single and going to all my friends' wedding and wedding showers (I went to two wedding this past month, really I am there), so I expected this book to be phenomenal and shed light into this difficult time in many womens' lives.

What I read in this book angered me beyond all measure. First of all even casually mentioning marijuana is inappropriate. You do know that marijuana is illegal in this country correct Jennifer? Having characters indulge in this "hobby" is horrible and setting a bad example. Also I do not think the main characters made it through one chapter without getting drunk. Can you say alcohol problem? And yes, I am saying this as a social worker, so I do have a point of view that is different from many. But still, the alcohol and drug usage in this novel angered me greatly.

Beyond that there were so many characters I cannot find a main character. I read this book over 2 days and in between the 1st and 2nd day I lost all semblance of remembering who these characters were and why I cared about them. I do not believe there was a single compound or complex sentence in the entire book. Chapters were divided into subsections that usually never even made it into a page of length, really? I can read better than that, you made it more confusing.

And finally I would like to sum it up with a message: Jennifer Close, I think you single handedly knocked women's rights about 50 years backwards. Women do not need a man to be happy, we do not need to settle, we can be happy on our own. None of your characters were strong female leads any girl would aspire to look up to. Horrible book, if I could I would give it 0 or even negative stars.

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## Colleen Myers says

This is a review for the ladies - specifically, for the mid-20s ladies, the ones who went to great colleges and had big dreams and couldn't wait to get out there and start their totally fabulous lives, except, oops, that's actually a lot harder than it sounds when you're 21 and it's senior spring and you're drinking Trader Joe's wine on the stoop.

After reading this book, I had one of my first pangs of Kindle regret since purchasing the device a little over a year ago. *Girls in White Dresses* is the type of book that I wish I could drop in the mail to one of my college roommates, with explicit instructions to pass it on to the next lady in our little cluster after finishing. This book doesn't follow a traditional "and then, and then, and then, happy ending" plot; instead, it presents us with moments from the characters' lives. We see the publishing assistant at a small firm flail when her company folds. We see the "I'm not really a waitress" concede that her industry isn't going to revive and, yes, for the moment she is a waitress, and that's okay. We see their relationships, like the safe guy that you stay with because he just looks right, but you don't feel the mad crazy love for him, or the guy that you're more than a little ashamed of, so you hide the fact that you're with him, and you feel dirty even thinking about it. It all works because it's all real. These characters are me, are my friends, are the people I still talk to every day. Close doesn't give us a plot, but she gives us **ourselves**, carefully crafting a novel about what it means to grow up.

We are in our mid - okay, or our late - 20s, and no matter how much we fight and flail, we're growing steadily closer to that horrible line in the sand: 30. How did we get here? How did we get so far away from those dreamers, sitting on the stoop on 113th street? We're adults, now, or we're trying to be, and that's complicated and frustrating, but also exhilarating and beautiful. And Close captures all of that and more in this novel.



So if you can remember giggling with your girlfriends instead of writing your final paper; dancing to "Sexyback" and swigging champagne straight from the bottle and smoking out the dorm room window; sleeping with stupid boys but promising ourselves that we'd look for the right one as soon as we graduated; and dreaming that something out there holds something bigger and brighter... this is the book for you. Read it now. And then grab some wine, throw on a circa-2005 mix CD, and dance it out. I promise you'll feel better.

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### **Natalie (Natflix&Books) says**

Find an updated review for this book on my blog: [Natflix&Books](#) where I explain the jump from four to five stars.

I loved *Girls in White Dresses*. I flew through it, ignoring almost everything else to get to the end. Each chapter is written like a short story, which is my favorite format for a novel. It is melancholy and funny and just oh-so-true. It tells the stories of a group of friends after college as they start to navigate their lives in the city. Their jobs and relationships, wedding showers of friends they are mostly happy for, actual weddings, pregnancy, holding on to the guys who aren't really right because at least they aren't alone, the fading of friendship with girls they were so close to during those college years.

My only complaint, and the reason I can not give this book five stars is that it was impossible to keep all of the girls straight. There are a couple of girls who are the 'main characters', but some of the stories were about girls who were mentioned earlier, but I couldn't remember details--and I read this almost straight through. Even with some of the more prominent characters, I would ask, 'now, Lauren was the waitress with the bad bartender boyfriend, right?' and have to flip back to make sure that I was thinking of the right character. If this was intentional on the author's part, a kind of statement about how girls of this age are all the same, then she did it brilliantly. Regardless, it was sometimes confusing, and slowed down the narrative.

Don't let that deter you, though. I honestly did love this book. I loved the style, I cared about the characters, her writing is fresh and introspective and I wished it was longer. I can't wait to see what Jennifer Close writes next.

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### **Kelly (TheWellReadRedhead) says**

I really enjoyed this book! There are two things that make it stand out for me vs other chick lit. One, the characters are going through very average, every day events--they don't get into these crazy, ridiculous situations that you see in some other novels of this genre (ie. Becky Bloomwood's entire existence in the *Shopaholic* series). But that doesn't mean their lives are boring. Instead, it's fun to read because they are going through things that nearly every girl in her late 20s/early 30s can relate to in some way. If you fall into that age bracket, I bet at least one of the characters will sing for you in some way. That made me form a better connection to the novel and really drew me in quickly.

Two, the humor in it is pretty wry and deadpan, which is such a change from what you get in many other chick lit novels. This book made me laugh a lot more than anything else I've read lately. It was really well-written and I'm hoping the author releases something else soon!

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## Heather says

The description on the inside jacket cover of this book says “wickedly funny and utterly recognizable.” That is pure marketing bullshit, unless of course you mean ‘utterly recognizable’ as a synonym for “eye-rollingly cliché and reminiscent of every single episode of Sex and the City, or Friends, or (insert the young singles dating sitcom of your choice) ever made, ever.” The wickedly funny part is just wrong. I think I may have smiled twice, and I got incredibly angry at these ridiculous women over and over and over. And over. I seriously wanted to grab each of them by the shoulders and shake her till she puked—which, since every one of them was full of at least a half a bottle of wine at any given point in the story, no matter the time of day, wouldn’t take too much shaking to accomplish.

I kept finding myself thinking, “Why is this book considered literature/fiction/something that anyone would think I would have an interest in at all, rather than just pure and simple ‘chick-lit’?” And here’s the reason: The author has an MFA from The New School. That’s how. Apparently the same reason the world thinks we’d give a shit about this passel of pathetic women and their dating problems is the same reason why it thinks we give a shit about what the author has to say: She’s got money. I really hope that in ten years she’ll look back on this ridiculous work that she’s wrought and be embarrassed by it, but I’m sure in ten years she’ll just be another stay-at-home mom with too much money and too much time worrying about what kindergarten will get her kid on the best track to Harvard to ever have such a thought occur to her. She’ll be writing about the alcohol-soaked travails of middle age in such an environment, and her only embarrassments will be a 3 year old who can’t yet pirouette like the rest of the class or her own horrible faux pas of not wearing the best pair of yoga pants in class that day.

There is no end to the canon of “entertainment” about the perils of dating, and absolutely nothing new or interesting or insightful added to it by this book. The best thing I can say about “Girls in White Dresses” is that it only took about 5 hours on the whole to read. I plowed through it in no time because the book is like the characters in it: boring, superficial, without any depth or meaning. Everything about it truly sucked.

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## Samantha Smith says

So I'm a big fan of chick-lit and this book came recommended to me by another librarian. Recommended!! Honestly I can't imagine why anyone would recommend this book. It is terrible!! I love books about young twenty-somethings figuring out who they are and books about thirty-somethings making a life for themselves. I love relationship books. I thought this book had all the components to make me really enjoy it. I can enjoy even the silliest chick-lit novel. But come on. All these characters were so annoying I can't imagine anyone wanting to be their friend, much less date them. Ummm... I think there is a reason some of these ladies are still single. This is a book filled with insecure, unsuccessful, and obnoxious women, yuck. The worst was the quasi main character Isabella. She doesn't like the city but yet becomes upset when someone suggests leaving it. She doesn't like her boyfriends friends, complains about her own friends, feels uncomfortable EVERYWHERE, hates her job then gets a new one and still complains. Complain, complain, complain omg! I think she is mentally ill and needs medication. Some of the other girls are less annoying but not by much. They all complain about their married friends but are sooooo jealous because they too aren't getting married. I don't understand the point of this book. Oh and it had no real end, it just ended. No point, annoying characters, whiny insecure overly analyzed problems. Reader beware!

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## Erica says

I read this in galley form (got it at BEA at the urging of my friend Maya), and the back cover copy compares it to *The Girls Guide to Hunting and Fishing*. I'm always skeptical of those sorts of comparisons, but in this case I have to say the book completely delivered.

*Girls in White Dresses* is a novel-in-stories (side note: sometimes it makes me sad that we have to call collections of linked stories "a novel-in-stories" in order to get them more attention. why don't we love short stories for what they are? see also: a visit from the goon squad) about a group of Boston College grads living in New York City, following them from just post-college until they're around 30. And I loved it. What I loved most of all was the way the girls talked to each other--Jennifer Close nailed the dialogue, really capturing the way friends speak, the shorthand and the slang that comes from knowing people for forever. But beyond that she nailed the feeling of being in New York in your 20s, when you're vaguely dissatisfied and you don't know why, and your job sucks and your boyfriend sucks and your apartment sucks and the only thing that doesn't suck are your friends.

Also, the chapter on being a bridesmaid was so dead-on I wanted to call my best friend (who I was a bridesmaid with) and read it to her.

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## Isa says

2.5 stars actually.

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## Michelle says

I'm having trouble deciding if I liked this book or not. It was about three best friends Isabella, Mary and Lauren. Yet it took me about half the book to figure this out. The book is laid out with each chapter focusing on a different person. This made it a little confusing. Since I neither loved nor hated this book I decided to split this review into two parts: the good and the bad.

The Good:

I like how none of the characters in this book had perfect lives. They dealt with situations that everyday people face, like hating your friends boyfriend, not being satisfied in your career, and having friends you don't really like. The most refreshing part of this book was that their relationships weren't perfect. They fought with their boyfriends. They broke up with them. They dated people that were bad for them. I think this book reflected real life more than most books do, and I liked it for that.

The bad:

Too many characters! Every time I started a new chapter I had to go back to remember what happened to that character last. I kept flipping back to remind myself which boyfriend she had before, was hers the political guy or the one who went skiing? I think it would have been better if the story was only told from the perspective of the three main characters only.

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### **Lindsay says**

I go through this phase every summer. It gets hot, I don't feel like wearing make-up or drying my hair, I wear as little as possible, and I stop wanting to read anything serious. My collection suddenly looks tired, everything seems too long. I want to read something quick, refreshing, light: see Traveling Pants, Millenium Trio, Hunger Games. I start looking at Fluff and Chick Lit books in a new way. Sometimes, GASP, I actually like them. Which is basically why I picked up this piece of crap.

And yeah, I hate you summer, for making me do this. I hated it from the first page. The writing was so disconnected, trying to be funny but never getting there. The characters were confusing as hell. I get that she wanted to make it be this sprawling example of young adulthood and dating frustrations and career frustrations and ohmygodjustshutthehellupalready. There were about 15-20 girls in this book, but none of them are memorable, many of them mentioned in one or two chapters.

The "main" characters were obnoxious, not relatable, and one dimensional. And holy crap did they drink a lot. Like every page. I didn't even drink that heavily in college. Every story seemed repetitious and juvenile- every woman staying with their guy when they so clearly do not love them just because they are afraid of being alone. And she did an even worse job with the male characters!

It all was a little depressing. Yeah, the twenties are a little frustrating with all your friends getting married and knocked up. But she missed the BEST part of it: falling in love, figuring out what you want out of your life, finding out who you really are, taking chances! Even during my most dismal days, I cannot relate to her story.

So yeah. Didn't like it.

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### **Elizabeth says**

I really enjoyed Girls in White Dresses and found the three main characters in their 20s to be totally relatable. It was an easy read but entertaining and I was happy that Close didn't wrap up each girl's story in a nice little pink bow. It was funny, truthful, and engaging. What a great debut for a first-time novelist.

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