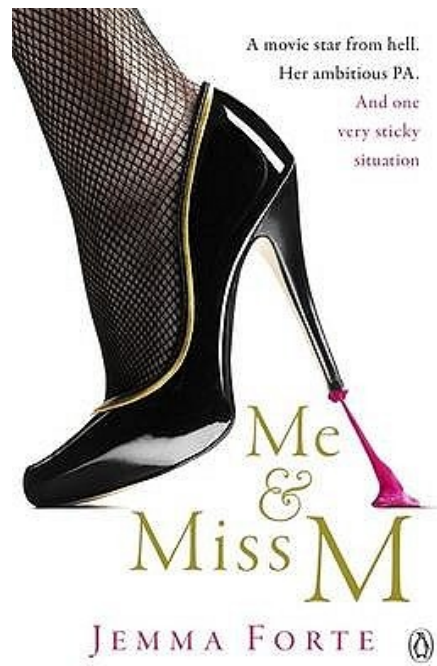




Me and Miss M

Jemma Forte

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Me and Miss M Jemma Forte

Ever wondered what a celebrity's life is really like? Struggling actress Fran has always had stars in her eyes but with a part in a car insurance ad as her only claim to fame, making it big is starting to look unlikely.

So taking a job as a PA to Caroline Mason - one half of Hollywood's most famous couples - seems like a fantastic opportunity. Especially when Fran's first encounter with Caroline's sexy, Oscar-winning boyfriend involves him wearing nothing but a tiny towel . . .

But Fran's new job is far from glamorous as her days are spent fetching never-ending, venti, quattro, decaf, skinny lattes and being an all-round slave to a demanding, botoxed diva. And when the job starts to cost Fran her friends and the man of her dreams she has to ask herself whether it's really worth it.

The time has come for Miss M to find out a few home truths, for Fran to get her life on track and to win back her Mr Right . . .

Me and Miss M Details

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From Reader Review **Me and Miss M** for online ebook

Sam Still Reading says

Me and Miss M was an Australian Women's Weekly Great Read earlier this year. A couple of chapters into this book I wondered what on earth their rationale was for this typical chick lit fodder where the recently dumped single girl loses her job and then gets the job of her dreams as personal assistant to a big name movie star. Then I read further, became suitably impressed and enjoyed the ride.

Fran is a struggling wannabe actress (with only one annoying jingle TV ad to her credit) who enjoys writing fantasy about her boss and coworkers. Naturally, this gets her sacked, but her friend Carrie Anne is able to get her a dream job – PA to Caroline Mason, one half of the ultimate power couple. Caroline is rude, selfish and demanding of Fran at all hours- when will Fran realise this and move on before all is broken?

There's some lovely characters in this book such as Lorna the housekeeper and Carson the movie star (he is the ultimate man- his descriptions really shine and make you wonder can George Clooney possibly compare?). Fran's friend, Abbie seems underutilised, as do all her friends- they pop in and out of the narrative very quickly. Didn't Sex and the City set standards for female friend meetups? When one friend has a baby (I can't even remember which one, that's how sketchily they are painted), how are we meant to care when we've only met the character in a few scenes? Am I meant to take the lack of friend detail as proof that Fran is neglecting everything to become indispensable to Caroline?

The book won't stretch your brain or your vocabulary but it does contain some surprising twists on the chick lit formulae. Of course there's a hunky down to earth movie star but what he does will surprise you. The boy next door has a brain and sometimes even uses it. The villain gets their comeuppance in a rather unique way. And it will remind you of The Devil Wears Prada, right down to the product name dropping. Still, that's not to say that it's not enjoyable and would be an easy beach read.

Paskal says

Enlevé, drôle et parfois attendrissant, voilà un livre qui se lit tambour battant en essayant de suivre le rythme effréné de la vie de Fran (pas la nounou d'enfer). Critique féroce du show-bizz, mais aussi de tous ceux qui en rêvent et en vivent, un très bon moment

Lynne says

This is chicklit, plain and simple but it's also very good chicklit. I knew as soon as I started it that I'd like it and I finished it very quickly. Fran is a PA who wants to be an actress but has never got the breaks. After losing her job she gets a new position working as the PA for a nightmare of a movie star. There are some funny parts, there's romance, there's a not what you expect twist in it and ultimately a happy ending. It's not a complicated book and that's not a bad thing. It did remind me slightly of The Devil Wears Prada with movie stars instead of magazine editors but that's no bad thing either!

Tabitha says

Fun, light read with many hilarious twists. Exactly what I was looking for to make it through the last few sweltering days of summer ?

Aileen says

Fran Moss is an Actress but is struggling for work she is a PA she loses her job after a fight with a Colleague then on the same day her boyfriend Henry dumps her. Fran's friend tells her about a job working for an American Actress Caroline Mason, she has a successful interview and gets the job, even although it is just until Christmas. She finds the job a bit different to what she thought she has never ending lists of jobs and Caroline is very demanding. But when her job starts interfering with her friends and love life is it worth it? I loved this book, it was very easy to read and follow I couldn't put it down definitely recommend.

Ligra Nera says

Skaityt buvo idomu, bet perskaičius taip ir nesupratau pavadinimo prasmės. Kas ta dievaitė? Karolina Meison - garsi ir bjauraus charakterio aktorė ar Fran'eska Masi - jos padėjėja, kukli mergina su didelėmis svajonėmis, kurias vėliau pradeda pildyti. Taip būna kai pavadinimai pakeičiami, kaip šiuo atveju iš "Aš ir panelė M" (Me and Miss M) ? lietuviškai " Dievaitė dėvi Gu?".

Leah says

Francesca Massi has dreamt of being an actress since she was 9 years old but now, at 29, her only claim to fame is starring in a car insurance advert. When Fran gets the chance to be a PA to Caroline Mason – one half of Hollywood's most powerful couple, she jumps at the chance to have a springboard for her acting career. However being a celebrity PA is nothing like Fran imagined, in fact it's hell. As Fran starts losing her friends and potential Mr Right, she starts to wonder if it's really worth it. Will Fran salvage her relationships before it's too late?

Jemma Forte's debut novel Me & Miss M caught my eye when I read somewhere, Amazon I think, that it was being called the British The Devil Wears Prada. I haven't actually read The Devil Wears Prada but have seen the film and know how the plot goes so I was hugely interested in reading Me & Miss M to see just how right or wrong that claim was. Me & Miss M is like a British version of The Devil Wears Prada but also it's not... let me (try and) explain.

Me & Miss M tells the story of struggling actress Fran. Every since she watched It's A Wonderful Life aged nine she's wanted nothing more than to be famous and to attend the Oscars and star in films. In the twenty years that follow, her only claim to fame is starring in a dodgy car insurance advert which still makes her cringe. However, through her friend Carrie-Anne, Fran is given the opportunity of a lifetime: becoming the personal assistant of Caroline Mason, one half of Hollywood's uber-couple, girlfriend of Carson Adams – a

hugely popular movie star. As Fran begins her job and in the subsequent months that follow it seems as if being PA to a star isn't as glamorous as it all seemed. As the book progresses we see just how bad and demanding Caroline Mason is and I couldn't help but marvel at how Fran put up with it. It's a hugely interesting plot and one that slowly sucked me in. It does of course stir up the question: do celebrities really act that way? It's easy to believe they do, but who knows?

The characters in *Me & Miss M* were all, in their own way, quite fantastic. Fran narrates the entire book so we get her deepest thoughts regarding Caroline Mason and Carson Adams. I thought she was incredibly sweet but also quite a saint for putting up with Caroline for so long. Caroline Mason was an absolute horror yet I found her incredibly intriguing. She needed to learn some home truths, for sure, but I found her incredibly amusing also. I absolutely loved Carson Adams. He was so much more down-to-Earth than Caroline and his star status didn't seem to concern him or make him egotistical in any way. I loved all of Fran's friends; Abbie, Ella, Sabina, Carrie-Anne but I felt they were hugely underused as the book was pretty much about Fran's PA duties to Caroline. Tom, the love interest, is introduced quite early on in the book and I liked him immediately. Again, he was underused but only because of how busy Caroline kept Fran most of the time. One of my favourite characters though was Lorna, Caroline's housekeeper, she was incredibly nice and really looked out for Fran.

There are plenty of mini-plots throughout the book, some more obvious than others. There was a subplot about Caroline and Carson which I guessed well before it all came out. It was so obvious it was untrue. As well as having Fran's narrative throughout we also read some of her diary entries she writes whilst working for Caroline. It kind of felt repetitive considering we'd already read it but it didn't concern me too much. The real crux of the story though seemed to be Fran figuring out once and for all what it is she wanted to do with her life, she was very undecided about it all and I liked her eventual career path although it did take her so long to arrive at her career-choice.

The writing of *Me & Miss M* is quite superb considering it's a debut novel and I was highly impressed with how easy it was to complete the book. Jemma Forte seems hugely talented and I hope she's busy on a second book. The ending kind of left it open for a potential sequel and I for one would love more time in Fran's mad world. I can't, however, compare *The Devil Wears Prada* as I haven't read it but after seeing the film, they do seem relatively similar yet also quite different if that makes sense. Maybe my mind will change when I eventually get around to *The Devil Wears Prada* and I can see for sure how similar (or unsimilar) they are. The book covers are remarkably similar, both feature a high-heeled shoe although *The Devil Wears Prada* shoe is shaped like a devil's stick whereas the *Me & Miss M* shoe is covered in gum. I've read a number of fantastic debuts this year and this is another of those high up on my list of fab debuts. *Me & Miss M* is well worth a read.

LizZz Love says

Even een totaal ander genre dan ik normaal graag lees. Wat een heerlijk boek was dit!

Melinda Elizabeth says

The theme has been done before, and with much more success than this one. The terror of "The Devil Wears Prada" is missing and the villain just comes off looking a bit one dimensional and not scary in the least.

The lengthy forays into self introspection "Am I shallow? Am I a doormat? Do I really love Tom? Who am I?" became irritating, as did the mention of "destiny days".

If you're looking for something that doesn't take a lot of effort to read and is a little on the bland, "been there done that" side, go for it. It's predictable, it's nothing new, but sometimes you just need a bit of bland reading to get through the day.

Soma Helmi says

Well written, with some truly comical scenes. I loved to hate the nightmare movie-star-from hell. Gemma captured the helplessness, frustration and hilarity of working for an egomaniacal, spoilt princess with no grip on reality very well. Only downside was the predictability of the ending. Other than that this is a great, fairly quick read.

Elena says

So verlockend es ist, über die tägliche Büro-Soap-Opera einen Roman zu schreiben – wenigstens die Namen sollten geändert werden. Sonst könnte es einen wie Francesca ergehen, die nach Entdeckung ihrer außerdienstlichen Aktivitäten den Job verliert. Doch zum Glück kommt da ein unverhofftes Angebot: Francesca wird die persönliche Assistentin eines berühmten Filmstars! Ein Traumjob, wo ihre hoffnungsvolle Karriere als Schauspielerin bisher nur zu einem zwar erfolgreichen, aber höchst peinlichen Werbespot geführt hat. Doch Glanz und Glamour sind nur schöner Schein und ihre Chefin Caroline hält sie ganz schön im Atem, entpuppt sie sich doch als neurotische Zicke. Da bleibt kaum Zeit für das Privatleben, obwohl dort kurz darauf ein interessanter Mann auftaucht...

Ein Chick lit-Buch ganz im Stil von der Verfilmung "Der Teufel trägt Prada": Leicht naives Mädchen kriegt vermeintlichen Traumjob und erlebt dann als persönliche Assistentin die Vorhölle. Das Ganze wird unterhaltsam aus der Ich-Perspektive geschildert und mit Tagebucheinträgen sowie dem Buch-im-Buch untermalt. Natürlich taucht auch irgendwann ein netter Mann in Form eines attraktiven Tierarztes auf. Doch Francesca erkennt nicht, dass sie sich dem Weg zum Glück verbaut – sonst wäre das Leben ja auch zu einfach.

Ein schönes Buch mit den klassischen Zutaten des Genre, dennoch erfrischend erzählt. Zwar kommt einem die Storyline ziemlich bekannt vor, aber dank Francescas Schreibkünsten und den damit verbundenen Buch im Buch ist das Buch hinreichend individuell. Neben den Drachen Caroline gibt es viele ebenso wie die Hauptfigur sympathische Nebenfiguren und auch wenn die Handlung überdreht ist, bleibt sie doch realitätsnah genug. Der Schluss ist natürlich ein Happy End, aber ein tolles. Insgesamt ein wirklich nettes Buch für zwischendurch, dem für eine bessere Wertung noch das gewisse Etwas fehlte.

primeballerina says

"Die Göttin trägt Gucci": klingt nach einem typischen Frauen-, Liebes-, Unterhaltungsroman und ist es letztendlich auch. Doch keineswegs in negativen Sinne, sondern durchaus positiv. Viel Witz, viel Charme &

eine sympathische Protagonistin machen Jemma Fortes Roman bestsellerreif.

Francesca hat einen Traum; sie möchte unbedingt vor die Kamera, Schauspielerin werden, einmal zu den Oscars, zu den bekanntesten Hollywoodgrößen zählen.

Doch nach einigen wenigen Werbeauftritten, die eher Lachanfalle als pure Bewunderung auslösen, muss sie ihren Traum von Hollywood wohl aufgeben. Nachdem sie gekündigt wird, da sie ihr Leben bzw. den neuesten Tratsch aus dem Büro auf Papier gebracht hat (während der Arbeitszeiten...), bekommt sie mittels einer guten Freundin, einen Job als persönliche Assistentin einer bekannten Schauspielerin. Diese entpuppt sich, natürlich, als schreckliche Diva und arrogante Zicke. Der Job beansprucht Francesca voll und ganz, den ganzen Tag muss sie auf Abruf bereit sein, jegliche Wünsche der Schauspielerin zu erfüllen – sei es Wäsche zur Reinigung bringen, frischen Kaffee holen, und, und, und.

Neben so einem anspruchsvollen Job findet sich leider nur sehr wenig Zeit für die Liebe, doch Francesca hat ein Ventil, mit dessen Hilfe sie ihrer 'Wut' oder ihrem 'Frust' freien Lauf lassen kann: sie schreibt an einem Manuskript, der von einer Assistentin einer Hollywood-Diva handelt – also eigentlich ihre persönlichen Geschichte.

Während der Lektüre lässt es sich nicht vermeiden, ein paar Parallelen zum weltbekannten Bestseller Lauren Weisbergers, "Der Teufel trägt Prada", zu erkennen. Eine junge Frau, die Karriere machen will, ein harter, erniedrigender und zeitaufwändiger Job als persönliche Assistentin, ein Drache als Chefin, teure Kleider, Marken, Berühmtheiten, etc. Auch der Titel weist ganz eindeutige Gemeinsamkeiten auf: "Die Göttin trägt Gucci" – "Der Teufel trägt Prada". Na, entdeckt ihr auch Parallelen?

Doch trotz der vielen Gemeinsamkeiten gibt es auch gewisse Unterschiede, die dazu beitragen, dass dieser Roman ganz allein für sich stehen kann. Denn die Botschaft, die Moral ist eine ganz andere, das Ende sowieso und die Protagonisten agieren zwar ähnlich, aber nicht gänzlich gleich.

So unterscheidet sich zwar auch der Schreibstil Jemma Fortes nicht sehr von dem Weisbergers; ist genauso flüssig und angenehm zu lesen, aber er ist nicht kopiert.

Deswegen kann ich guten Gewissens sagen, dass mir "Die Göttin trägt Gucci" gut gefallen hat und man es jederzeit allen empfehlen kann, die gerne "Der Teufel trägt Prada" gelesen haben und auf der Suche nach Frauenliteratur ('Chick-Lit') auf gewissem Niveau sind.

Boekenbuzz.nl says

Fran is een worstelende actrice die personal assistant wordt van de temperamentvolle actrice Caroline Mason, de helft van een machtig Hollywood-stel. Haar dagen zijn goed gevuld – maar ze heeft ook veel vrije tijd. Caroline blijkt een totale nachtmerrie te zijn, behoeftig, hebzuchtig en over het algemeen moeilijk mee om te gaan.

Fran houdt een dagboek bij om niet gek te worden. Haar vrienden moedigen haar aan om het te laten uitgeven. Ze ontmoet een aardige man op de trouwdag van een vriendin, maar ze heeft amper tijd om aan een relatie te werken, omdat ze wordt opgeslokt door haar werk en het schrijven. Uiteindelijk zegt haar vriend dat hij vindt dat ze teveel op haar werk is gericht en laat haar zitten.

Kort daarna stopt ze met haar werk als personal assistant, krijgt ze een aanbieding voor haar boek, en voor een film, gebaseerd op het boek. Het verhaal neemt een ironische wending als ze Caroline adviseert zichzelf

te spelen in het toch wel erg gelijkende portret. Komen Fran en haar vriend weer bij elkaar? Zal alles weer goedkomen? De diva en ik mist het venijn van Lauren Weisbergers De duivel draagt Prada. Desalniettemin is het boek zeker het lezen waard.

Marijke says

als je het boek Lauren Weisbergers De duivel draagt Prada. hebt gelezen..en je vond die leuk.dan is dit boek ook aan te raden..

nederl titel;DE DIVA EN IK

Wow! Assistente van de Hollywoodster Caroline Mason - Francesca denkt haar droombaan te hebben gevonden. Maar de mooie, vriendelijk ogende vrouw die ze uit de bladen kent, blijkt een bitch van een baas. Al vrij snel drijft de veeleisende diva met haar onmogelijke wensen haar tot wanhoop.

Dan ontdekt ze dat de superster een goed verborgen geheim heeft. Iets waarmee Francesca terug kan slaan, maar dát is gemakkelijker gezegd dan gedaan...

Nicki says

Picked this up for 20c at an op shop. Too cheap to pass up, but honestly thought it looked like it would be crappy and not even worth that much!

Expected to read a chapter and then pass along through bookcrossing.

Much to my surprise, very well written and entertaining chick lit. Had to eat my words!

Fran is an aspiring actress who ends up dumped and unemployed all in the same week. When the opportunity to work as the assistant of c-list actress Caroline arises, it sounds too good to be true, and it is. Caroline is the narcissistic boss from hell.

Kind of like Devil Wears Prada, but set in the movie world and had a few twists I didn't expect. Honestly couldn't put it down
