



Sex, Lies & Hot Tubs

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Alternate cover edition - ASIN: B0079OSS2M

Meet Ellen Dunwell, doting wife, loving mother, high school teacher extraordinaire. She's worried that her husband, the respected Dr. Jeffrey Dunwell, wonderful father, great lover, is having another affair. As if that's not bad enough, her friends don't understand her, her neighbor's son is a Peeping Tom, and her angst-ridden teenage daughter is stashing pot in her room and dating a control freak. When Jeffrey disappears, Ellen resolves to mend her family and sets out on a mission to find him—only to get caught up in a web of intrigue and danger, where nothing is as it seems and the stakes are her life.

Sex, Lies & Hot Tubs Details

Date : Published May 30th 2013 by Muttsoft, Inc. (first published February 14th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Elissa Ambrose

Format : Kindle Edition 273 pages

Genre : Romance, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Mystery, M F Romance

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From Reader Review Sex, Lies & Hot Tubs for online ebook

Kristina Smith says

Ever read a book that about halfway through you know you are not enjoying as much as you should, but you're so far in that you feel you need to finish it? That's how I felt about this book.

Ellen Dunwell suspects that her husband, successful dermatologist Jeffrey, is cheating on her ... again, and most of the book is about all the steps she takes to find out who his latest conquest might be, all while protecting her teenage daughter, Claire, from discovering that her father is a cheater. The problem is Claire already knows, and despises her mother for not standing up to him and for not standing up for herself against his behavior. And then, suddenly, Jeffrey disappears. Gone, after receiving a mysterious phone call at the office, and never returns. Now Ellen has to figure out where he is and what might have happened to him.

And this is where it (kind of) gets interesting: drugs, a mechanic who looks like an Elvis impersonator, sex clubs, a fiancee, well-meaning friends who aren't as innocent as they seem, and a motorcycle riding, poet spouting "bad boy" who isn't as bad as he seems - all of these twists make the book slightly less boring. But Ellen's constant whining about Jeffrey, without doing anything to correct the situation, made reading the book more tedious than it needs to be.

Kerry-Ann McDade says

Teenage problems to her husband committing adultery to disappearing - Elissa Ambrose has wrote a novel which dabbles in a little bit of everything. Sex Lies and Hot Tubs was an addictive read from the very first page and I was intrigued to read more. It was interesting, funny and the perfect novel to lift your spirits.

I judged Ellen from her forgiving her husband for his adultery but that's not right is it? This novel is full of surprises and keeps you sitting on the edge of your seat just wanting to read more. It's the perfect novel for everyone (I think) and it will keep you entertained till the middle of the night.

I've not read a book like it! I absolutely couldn't put it down! If this novel is anything to go by I can't wait to check out Elissa Ambrose's other novels!

Richard Doss says

Interesting

I normally have been a reader of non-fiction but now with more time on my hands I thought I would broaden my horizons. It was a book that was easy to read and moved along quickly. It was a good mix of suspense, drama and a nice helping of comedy thrown in to boot.

Belinda Buchanan says

Ellen Dunwell has a lot to be thankful for. She has her health, a beautiful teenage daughter, nice cars and homes and is married to a successful dermatologist. Yes, she has a lot to be thankful for. At least that's what her friends keep telling her.

Reaching fifty is a major milestone in any woman's life, and Ellen has just hit it. Two years ago, her husband, Jeffrey, had an affair. Ellen did what she felt was best and forgave him. She could see no point in breaking up her family over his indiscretion.

But as hard as Ellen tries to trust him again, the gap in their marriage remains. When Jeffrey starts coming home late and not answering his cell, she becomes increasingly suspicious that he is having another affair. Her friends tell her she is being paranoid and to appreciate what she has. This forces Ellen to take a hard look at her life. Her seventeen-year old daughter holds little, if any respect for her. And her husband is...well not there for her, emotionally or physically.

Then one day, Jeffrey goes missing and Ellen sets out to find what has become of her husband. Small clues, and overheard conversations lead her deeper and deeper into a mystery. Her sleuthing abilities are not polished, and hilarity usually ensues as she tries to find him. Her quick wit and quips made me laugh.

The plot moves along at a good pace and I found myself reading quicker to be able to get to the next page.

All in all it was an enjoyable read.

Collette Scott says

Shortly after her 50th birthday, Ellen begins to believe her husband of twenty-eight years is cheating on her - again. Late nights, aloof behavior, missing dinners - they all lead up to an increase in suspicion that weighs heavily on her mind as she wonders whether or not she should trust her instincts. She doesn't know what to do or how to handle the situation and her friends are no help. One friend advises her to go have an affair, while another tells her she's being paranoid and is driving him away. Who to believe? In the midst of all this, she has a teenage daughter who's acting out, and Ellen is overwhelmed trying to keep her family together and her sanity in place... Then Jeffrey disappears. From that moment on, Ellen feels her world crashing down around her, and everything she thought she knew about her family proves to be just the surface of a very deep iceberg.

This book was outstanding, well-written and fast-paced. Ellen was so realistic that I could relate to her every decision, her fears, frustration and helplessness as though these emotions were my own. I was on the edge of my seat all the way to the stunning ending, and I felt I was right in the midst of the drama as it played out.

Can you overcome the loss of trust following a cheating spouse? In Ms. Ambrose's realistic portrayal of Ellen's situation, you can understand how a woman would feel following an affair, how difficult it is to regain the trust that has been severed, and how dramatically it impacts an entire family. Written with a touch of humor, you can't help but sympathize with Ellen's insecurities and laugh at her foibles. In addition to the very real situations, there was an intense element of suspense as Ellen struggled to find out what Jeffrey was

up to, and you're anxiously turning pages to get to the shocking end. I can't recommend this book highly enough, for it definitely left an impact with me. If you're looking for a fast, lifelike piece of women's fiction, look no further. You won't regret it.

Jeanette says

This book I found to be very slow and hard to get into...But once I begin I must finish. Then not until after I was half way through.was when the story became more interesting and I wanted to find out the result.

Samantha March says

Elissa Ambrose is now on tour with CLP Blog Tours and Sex, Lies & Hot Tubs. What a book! You know you are engrossed in a story when you have your Kindle balanced on your laptop so you can sneak in sentences while working! I think that is the definition of "not being able to put a book down." I had a great time with this book and the characters that filled the pages. Ellen Dunwell is our MC, a mother, a wife, a friend, and a high school teacher. She stumbled upon her husband's - a dermatology doctor- affair in the past with his receptionist, and now she has a suspicion that he is back to his usual ways. When he goes missing, the mystery is amped. Did her really take off with a new girlfriend? What about his shady new side business Ellen thinks he got involved in – could something have taken a wrong turn in that aspect? Ellen is also dealing with a hormone-charged, angst-ridden teenage daughter calling for attention, as well as her students, her friends, and a Peeping Tom neighbor.

There is a lot going on in this book, but I never felt confused or unable to get into a sub-plot. Ambrose gives readers mystery, humor, suspense, sex, and a quick-pace that made me finish this within two days. I really don't want to give anything away because there is plenty of shock-able moments, but I can't recommend this book more. A big 5 star review for me, and another to add to my Favorites List!

Patricia Ibarra says

Shortly after her 50th birthday, Ellen begins to believe her husband is cheating on her - again. She becomes so paranoid that every minute of her life is focused on checking his whereabouts, opening drawers, wallets, smelling clothes, etc., until one day he really disappears. Then she really feels that her world starts crumbling. I hated the character, whining and complaining every single minute and the story is utterly unbelievable. What could I expect with this title?

BlueJ says

I really don't know what to think of this book. I liked it at first, and then it got a little weird. The book was well written, that's for sure.

But I simply couldn't wrap my head around some things. I don't know about you, but I'm not sure that 50 year-old math teachers run around their house in tiny bikini's, and open the door to strangers, half naked. I

just couldn't get that.

Initially the book was about the cheating husband's antics and the wife's worries, and then suddenly, there was a sex club, and even drugs involved. All I could think was

Coming to the main character, Ellen. She was extremely unlikeable. Actually, none of the characters were even remotely likeable. And in my opinion, when you don't have a character to root for in a book, that's a minus point for the book. Ellen is such a pushover! I mean, seriously. Even when her husband blames her for his cheating ways, she takes it like a doormat and begs him to come back. And then they never talk about it, avoiding the topic like an STD. I mean, seriously.

Ellen's friends were just as annoying as her. I'm not kidding, but when I read their conversations, I felt like I was reading about 20-something airheads, not mature married women. Oh, and they dance around in their teeny bikini's too.

Coming to her husband, Jeffrey, he was a piece of trash. A good looking piece of trash, with a glass eyeball. After reading this book, I felt as though there were only 5 families who lived in that town. I mean, Jeffrey has slept with almost everyone of them!

Ellen's daughter, Claire, seemed like she had multiple personality disorder. She was so nice to her father even though she knew he was an asshole. And she really was an ungrateful kid. I mean she was 17 for crying out loud, not 7! I just couldn't understand the mother-daughter relationship.

And then the other woman, Keeley. The actual other woman. I think she was 20 or 21, and she was stupid. STUPID. I mean, she called a Fabergé egg a Febreeze egg! Oh, and Ellen hung out with her, even though she knew that Keeley was her husband's mistress, and that he was going to leave Ellen for her. They hung out, smoked pot and drank alcohol, in the hot tub. I just don't get it. It seemed weird to me.

It seemed to me that even though the author had the storyline neatly planned out, she got bored about three fourths of the way in and decided to end it by throwing all of the remaining elements in.

The writing was good, there weren't any typos that I noticed, and if the story was developed better, I think it would have been a pretty good book.

I'd give this 2 to 2.5 stars.

Marísha says

This book was extremely hard to get into, very slow...I was bored until after I was half way through. At that point the story became more interesting and I wanted to find out the result. The ending was good and really unexpected!

Arianne The Bookworm on the Loose says

intriguing and mysterious. the twist on the story was quite a shock!

Carolyn Amundson says

There are two separate parts of this book. Unfortunately, you have to sludge through the first 37% to get to the better part. I felt like I earned the last 63% of the book (or thereabouts given the extra padding at the end of an ebook).

The first 37% is background. The main character thinks she's wonderful and screeches at her husband and daughter about how un-wonderful they are. There's lots and lots of detail about how needy Ellen is, having to orchestrate others to suit her needs and schedule. We also learn that her husband is obviously having an affair with a coworker, had an affair two years ago, is constantly scheming to make more money, and is never in town (although the coworker lives in town - hmm). The detail about the car repairs was painful, even if it (eventually) explained some characters later in the book.

The last 63% is where things get moving. The disappearing husband mentioned in the plot synopsis finally disappears. The daughter's pot mentioned in the plot synopsis finally appears (and disappears in a zany but oddly satisfying scene with the coworker). Ellen gets to do her sleuthing, although the level of intrigue is pretty low. For the most part, Ellen accuses everyone she meets and eventually is right. Just as Ellen uses a crow bar to open her husband's desk, there's not a lot of subtlety to the story.

There are some weird plot diversions involving the inability of the cops to put the disappearance in a national database, the eventual police investigation, and the car mechanic's involvement in everything. Fortunately, Ellen is terribly naive, so it all works out in the end.

Kathleen Downey says

Good read

This book was enjoyable. It was drawn out in some sections but the storyline itself was interesting and the characters were well thoughtful.

Kathleen says

What's a woman to do when she hits the milestone age of fifty, has a cheating husband and a rebellious seventeen year-old daughter? And the husband suddenly disappears? She obsesses about her marriage, soaks in the hot tub and searches for her missing husband of course!

Ellen Dunwell had just turned fifty years old when a week later her life turned upside down. Married to successful dermatologist Dr. Jeffrey Dunwell for twenty-eight years, this Scottsdale, Arizona couple has had their share of ups and downs in their marriage. Two years ago Jeffrey had an affair and left Ellen for a week, only to return to their marriage hat in hand full of apologies and promises that it will never happen again. But now two years later Ellen is once again suspicious about Jeffrey's possibly cheating with his new young and perky medical assistant Keeley Wilder. Ellen begins questioning the trust she has in Jeffrey to the point where she begins obsessing about their marriage and her overactive imagination is put on overdrive!

With blocked calls and hang ups; a husband who comes home late every night and doesn't return phones calls; a constant battle with their rebellious daughter; friends who give her a range of advice to either suck it up or have an affair; to a creepy twenty year old neighbor boy who is a peeping tom ... it's enough to send any woman over the edge ... that is until Jeffrey suddenly disappears from his medical office, and Ellen has to put on her sleuth cap and go in search of her missing hubby, only to get caught in a web of intrigue and danger that could put her life at stake!

Sex, Lies & Hot Tubs is an entertaining story full of drama, mystery and wry humor that will keep you turning the pages. Author Elissa Ambrose weaves an intriguing tale told in the first person narrative by the quirky protagonist Ellen Dunwell, who takes the reader along for the ride as her crazy marital life story unfolds before her eyes. Ellen's story is full of humor, romance, drama, mystery and surprises ... the twists and turns that Ellen encounters in her marriage and in her search for her missing husband Jeffrey grabs the reader's attention and keeps them guessing what will happen next.

The author has created a quirky cast of characters who quickly pulls the reader into their lives. I found myself at odds with Ellen's character, I wavered back and forth between wanting to shake her because of her nativity over her marriage and Jeffrey's cheating ways, only to make me turn around and embrace her when she finds her backbone during the search for Jeffrey. I know I wouldn't have been so forgiving if my husband had a wandering eye. I have to admit that I loved Ellen's gritty sense of humor, I sympathized with her insecurities and loved how she was able to laugh at her own foibles. Her sleuthing abilities kept me in stitches, there was some pretty hilarious instances that she found herself in that made the story that much more entertaining. The supporting cast of characters added their own unique personalities to the story: husband Jeffrey and bratty daughter Claire were not my favorite people; neighbor Sherryl Turners, whose "be grateful you have a husband" speech made me grit my teeth; Sherryl's creepy peeping tom son Eric, just ewwww ... enough said; co-worker and friend Patricia "Trish" Manning, was a hoot; and Jeffrey's ditzy and naive medical assistant Keeley Wilder, *rolling my eyes*, all made the story that much more interesting.

With great attention to detail and description of the Arizona and Mexico settings; a humorous first person narrative; engaging character dialogue and interactions; and an intriguing mystery thrown into the mix, Sex, Lies & Hot Tubs kept me laughing and thoroughly entertained!

Sex, Lies & Hot Tubs is a fast paced witty story that has enough comedy, mystery romance, and real life drama that will keep you hooked until the surprising and shocking ending!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Chick Lit Plus Blog Tours.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

Emily says

Very well written. Her style reminds me a little of Susan Isaacs, who I love. Biting humor within a serious modern story.
