



What Came First

Carol Snow

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First comes love, then comes marriage, then . . . things can get a little complicated. Vanessa wants just one thing for her twenty-ninth birthday: an engagement ring from her longtime boyfriend, Eric. But when the ring turns out to be a mix CD and Eric turns out to be a guy who doesn't want to get married or have children, Vanessa considers a new path to having a family.

When Wendy and her husband, Darren, couldn't have children the old- fashioned way, a sperm donor seemed like the perfect solution. She never imagined she'd have out-of-control twins who'd drive her to cookie binges and scrapbooking while Darren escaped into the virtual world of computer games.

Single and career-driven, Laura didn't need a man to have a baby - at least not one that she ever met. Thanks to an anonymous donor, she shares her life with her adored eight-year-old son, Ian. She'll do anything for Ian - even fill their backyard with a bunch of noisy chickens. But the one thing Ian really wants is something Laura's never been able to give him: a sibling.

Now, to grant Ian's wish, Laura starts a search that will not only change her life but Vanessa's and Wendy's as well...

What Came First Details

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From Reader Review What Came First for online ebook

Janet Cleary says

Cute story of 2 women who used a sperm donor & of the sperm donor himself & his troubles with his girlfriend (who only wants what he gave to other women).

Natashia says

Ever hit that point in a novel where you can't read fast enough, but you wouldn't dare skip a single word? Then when it's finally over, you close the cover, take a deep breath... and scream "NO NO NO!!! It can't end there? What happens next? But but but...I loved them all so much." And then you sob silent tears of goodbye to the friends you loved and promise to revisit them sometime soon. Of course, this is only after you've convinced every person in your life to read the book to. This is the type of love that must be shared. It's a rare occurrence that I read something so wonderful that it leaves my bookshelf to circulate among friends and family. This one will. It's a very good thing I won an autographed copy, or I fear I may never get it back, and I simply couldn't have that.

Pat says

This was a Goodreads Giveaway.

I totally enjoyed this novel of humor, love, and some sadness thrown in. We meet Vanessa. Laura, and Wendy. All from different walks of life. Laura, after a difficult divorce, decided she wanted to be a single Mom, no attachments except to her child. She is a hard working attorney, and felt she could raise a child quite comfortably. She has a sweet intelligent, and very loving 8 year old son Ian. The sub plot about the chickens is great, funny and heartwarming. Wendy and her husband after years of trying to have children, decide to seek help from a fertility Dr. The resulting twins have rocked her world. There is no such thing as a normal day in the Winder house. Finally Vanessa. She's living with a man, who loves her, but doesn't want children or marriage. All that Vanessa wants, and is dreaming about. She feels inferior because she never completed college, and works as a receptionist in a Dentist's office. Eric, her partner, went to one year of Med school, dropped out for his musical talent, which he feels he failed at too. Now works at Costco! I couldn't figure out HOW Ms Snow was going to pull these women and there stories together, but oh, does she. I read the novel in a day, I couldn't put it down. I now have to seek out her other books!!! It's a wonderful story, and I highly recommend it.

Carol says

This is a great page turner. The author knows how to draw you into this story and not let you go. I found myself reading it during commercials of my favorite TV shows and skipping others so I could read this book.

Carol Snow, author of 'What Came first' keeps three storylines going with alternating chapters that sometimes intertwine. She knows how to make the characters seem real and how to make you care about

them.

There are three main women characters, Laura, Vanessa and Wendy.

Laura is a successful lawyer who lives with her son, Ian, some chickens and Maine Coone in Fullerton, California. She has given up on dating, not having that much success with it. So she had Ian via a donor. She is so pleased with Ian who she adores that she wants to have another and for that she needs to find the original donor.

Vanessa, a dental receptionist lives with Eric, who currently works at a chain store at the checkout. Vanessa has been waiting and waiting for Eric to propose. She wants to start a family. She lives in Redondo Beach and enjoys getting together with the other women workers at the office.

Wendy lives with her husband, Darren, and twins, Harrison and Sydney in North Scottsdale, Arizona in a cookie cutter neighborhood. Her children have been in the "terrible twos" since the day that they were born. She is hiding a secret from her husband and eats to calm herself down.

What ties these three women together? Why is there a baby chick in the stocking on the cover? Why do women want children?

I really enjoyed this book and want to read more of Carol Snow.

I recommend this book to all women, with or without children. It is a great read.

Although I received this book as a giveaway from GoodReads, that in no way influenced the content of my review.

Wanda says

Having a baby is huge deal. And some women struggle to get pregnant and when they can't conceive naturally. They'll go through the extreme to have a baby. Now a days, there are so many options you can choose from to have a baby. Well that's what this book was about. This is the first book I've read that was based on artificial insemination. It's about three women that eventually end up in each others lives through sperm donation. All in need of one thing. A baby.

Each character touched me in their own ways. And I'll explain how as I introduce them to you.

The first character I'll talk about is Laura. She's a very successful lawyer whose totally in love with her son. Laura is a mom of an I believe an 8 yr old. Now her son is at a stage were he's asking her for a sibling. And she wants nothing more than to grant him his wish however the donor she used to conceive her son has not made any more donations to the bank.

Now here's where I relate with Laura. My son is 10 years old and he keeps begging me to give him a sibling. He asks for a baby sister. And it breaks my heart, because unlike Laura, I have no desire to have another baby. Maybe if I felt that I was emotionally or financially ready, I would probably consider it. Because like Laura, she fears her son would stay alone if something were to happen to her. And so do I. So you can see how Laura's story touched me. But Laura's ready to make it happen and she'll jump through whatever loops she gotta jump through to make it happen.

Motherhood is not a Baby Gap Ad.

Now let's talk about Wendy. Wendy's a married woman with twin toddlers. She has her hands full, husband and two toddlers. And like Laura, she conceived her children through artificial insemination. But it seems she feels like she got the short end of the stick. She loves her twins. But they are extremely hyper and disobedient. They drain Wendy's energy and easily becomes overwhelmed.

Now here's where I connect with Wendy. When my son was a baby and even now at times, he was/is extremely hyper. And as a child whenever he had one of his temper tantrums or went through defiance stage, there was nothing anyone can say to calm me down. Just like Wendy, I cried and at times cried right along with my son as she did with her twins. Motherhood was a blessing but at times it felt like a nightmare when you couldn't get a grip on things. It hurts me to say that, but I know I'm not the only one. So I know how Wendy felt, when she just couldn't take it anymore and just lost her cool. But the sad thing with Wendy was, her husband instead of helping, he'd rather sit in front of a computer and play SIMS. Having toddlers with behavioral issues and a non-compliance husband can lead any woman to a mental breakdown.

And lastly you have Vanessa, she was highly anticipating an engagement ring for her 29th birthday, but instead she received a mix CD. She wanted nothing more than to marry the man she loves and begin having a family. But he had different plans. He didn't want to get married or have any kids. Right there, would have been the perfect time to get out of the relationship. However, like many women, she stayed because she loves him and she thought she can change his ways. But one phone call changed everything in their relationship. The link that connects them all together. What she will do? How she touched me, you may ask? I, like Vanessa have stayed in a relationship just because I loved the person, even when their dreams weren't the same as mine. But luckily, I got out before I got in too deep.

I really really enjoyed this book. Once, I started reading I couldn't put it down. Carol did her job as an author to entertain and she did her job to research everything in the topic of sperm donation. She gave each character a great story. She made it believable. And that is why I was hooked the moment I started reading. I connected quickly with her characters and I loved that about her book. This is definitely a 5/5 stars and a Good Choice for Reading. For more information on the author you can visit her website [here](#).

Patti says

my only complaint is that the ending left me unsatisfied- I wanted to know exactly what happened in everyone's life

Amy says

Three women have one thing in common, wanting children.

Vanessa is about to turn twenty-nine, and the only thing she wants is her boyfriend Eric, to propose. But what does Eric wind up giving Vanessa for her birthday? A mix CD, and news that he does not want to get married or have children. She starts to research alternative avenues to have children.

Laura didn't want a man, but did want children. So she goes to a sperm bank. and is extremely grateful to the anonymous donor, who has helped bring her son, Ian, into her life. She loves her son with all her heart, will give him almost anything. But she can't give him the one thing he wants the most...a sibling.

After Wendy and Darren have exhausted all the ways to conceive together, they end up turning to a sperm donor. Five years later, with two hyperactive and uncontrollable twins, life isn't as magnificent as they thought it would be. The only "me" time Wendy has is attending her once a week scrap-booking group, while Darren is always on the computer playing video games, leaving the "taking care of the kids" all to Wendy. To say Wendy wants to scream and pull her hair out is an understatement.

Due to one shocking phone call, these women will cross paths with each other, and their lives will change.

I was captivated by this book just after the first few pages. This was my first time reading a book centered on women having children from a sperm donor, so from this stand point, it was quite interesting and intriguing. Carol's writing hooks you deep into the character's minds, thoughts and darkest secrets, leaving you hanging on to the edge of your seat wanting more. Even though the majority of the plot is centered around how these women's lives are intertwined, the reader does get to learn other facets of each character. I really enjoyed this. I love how determined each of the women are, and in this aspect I can relate to them. Because wanting to be a mommy is at the top of my "want" list, I totally relate to the yearning to have children.

I have only critique, that being I wish Carol focused more on the other two women, and not so much on the relationship between Laura and Eric. At times it made the story feel a little off balance.

I recommend this book to anyone looking for a fun, light-hearted read, but at the same time, one that makes you think, and realize that life isn't always as it seems. Sometimes we think other people have the perfect life, but you don't know what happens behind closed doors. If you enjoy Women's Contemporary Fiction, "What Came First" has to be on your list. Carol Snow's other books are definitely on my to-read-list.

Liralen says

I liked this. I wasn't entirely sure what to expect -- it was a giveaway and looked like, effectively, a light, fun read --but my (admittedly vague) expectations, such as they were, were pretty accurate. Not quite a beach read but definitely an easy vacation read; chick lit; not going on my favourite-books-ever shelf (erm, if I had such a shelf) but something that I can in good conscience suggest that someone else read.

Paradoxically, I don't love any of the characters but I do love that they aren't all lovable. (Clear as mud?) Flawed characters -- the ones who do dumb things and regret it, who make mistakes, who are sometimes petty and, more importantly, *are intended to be seen as such in that moment* -- are so much more interesting than characters who are never in the wrong. It makes them frustrating sometimes, yes, but also more believable, more accessible.

What I really appreciated, though, was that it wasn't all rainbows and happy endings. I mean, it's mainstream fiction, so of course there's some degree of resolution and wrapping things up, but the characters don't all end up with (view spoiler). My kind of a happy ending -- when there are good signs for the future but that future hasn't been wrapped up and handed to the characters with a giant bow.

I received a free copy of this book via a Goodreads giveaway.

Melanie says

Another 'church' book as I call it, meaning I got it from the annual church book sale for \$1.00 or less. I never expect all that much from those books - they just need to be moderately entertaining for that price, you know? But I was pleasantly surprised by this one and I liked that the ending for all the characters wasn't your usual, 'wrapped up in a bow' type of thing you get in books from this genre. The Vanessa character was the only off note for me - she didn't really seem to fit in with the other two characters.

Wendy Hines says

Laura Cahill wanted a baby badly but didn't want a man, so she went to a clinic for an anonymous donor and is impeccably happy with her son, Ian. She gives Ian whatever he wants; toys, electronics and even chickens. But Ian wants a sibling and Laura wants the same donor again so the children will look alike and have a bond. The problem is there is no more sperm on ice and she's creeping close to forty. She hires a private investigator to find the father of her son and plans on asking him for a favor.

Vanessa has been waiting for years for her live-in boyfriend Eric to ask her to marry him. All of their friends are married and she doesn't understand why he won't ask. She's twenty-nine and she really wants a baby. Eric is determined not to have kids, so when Vanessa tells him she is shopping around for a donor, he tells her he is totally fine with that. It will be her child but he'll support her decision.

Wendy and Dan waited several years after they married before they decided to have a child. But when they started trying, it never happened. They went to several specialists and eventually found out that Dan couldn't sire any children. Instead of adopting, Wendy acquired an anonymous donor. They had twins, but life isn't as grand as they thought it would be. The twins are hyperactive and destructive. Dan spends his time off playing The Sims and leaves the squalling kids to Wendy, who just wants to run away.

When Laura locates Ian's donor, it brings all three women together in a manner they never seemed possible. Carol Snow never fails to deliver, keeping the emotions dancing in this compelling and delightful tale. The characters are relatable and modern, all on different paths in life but Snow merges them together with zest and wit. Charming, page-turning and engrossing, What Came First is a must read!

Erika says

Such a good read! I've read all of Carol Snow's adult novels, and each is so different. This fifth one, also, was a completely different type of novel than the other four.

You know a book is well-written when you identify with all 3 of the main characters.

Kept with me in-hand until the last word was read. Very enjoyable and well-done.

Kat says

I liked it

?lkim says

Bir Kristan Higgins ç?kmas?n? bekledim ama de?il. S?k?lmadan okudum ama sonu tatmin etmedi. Bir de ?imdiki zaman ile çevrilmi?... Gerçekten inan?lmaz göze bat?yor.

Patricia Mansker says

I won this book from Goodreads (which is the reason I enter the contests..it introduces me to new authors I might not have read otherwise) and received it yesterday. Yes, this book is that good! I started reading it and couldn't put it down. I loved the pacing and the characters, she made them real and lovable/hate-able in turn. The book itself moves fast, and it's an interesting idea..what if a sperm donor's client decide to find him? I really enjoyed this book, and will be buying her others as soon as I can. Thanks Goodreads!

Heather says

What a fun story! A mother tries to track down the sperm donor who fertilized her egg that resulted in her son. In the process she involves another mother who received this guy's sperm and his girlfriend. Lots of laugh-aloud places. It's just such a joy to read Carol Snow.
