



Rules for a Successful Book Club

Victoria Connelly

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Polly Nightingale never meant to fall in love again especially not with a biker thirteen years her junior. But then Jago Solomon enters her life with a guitar strapped to his back, and Polly and her six-year-old son, Archie, know that they've never been happier.

But what happened three years ago when Polly's husband, Sean, went missing? And what will it mean for Polly and Jago if her past ever catches up with them?

Rules for a Successful Book Club Details

Date : Published February 14th 2016 by Notting Hill Press

ISBN :

Author : Victoria Connelly

Format : Kindle Edition 273 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Rules for a Successful Book Club for online ebook

Denise McLean says

Good read

I loved finding out what happened to the characters from the first book and can't wait to read the next book to find out about the remaining characters

Moireach says

It's a lovely story of love, family and new beginnings. A bit predictable but very enjoyable.

Anna says

Rules for a Successful Book Club is the second installment in Victoria Connelly's new Book Lovers series. It features the characters from The Book Lovers but is a standalone novel. The focus this time is on Polly Nightingale, a member of the Nightingale clan and Sam's sister. She spends a lot of time helping out at her siblings' bookshops and is helping Sam establish his book club in the village. When she's not at the bookshops or her part-time teaching job, she is a single mother to six-year-old Archie.

Polly's family worries about her since the disappearance of her husband, Sean, three years ago. Without knowing what happened to him, whether he is dead or alive, Polly is in limbo, afraid to move on with her life. When Jago, a younger musician, enters her and Archie's lives, Polly isn't ready to let herself feel again. Slowly, Jago tears down the walls she has built around her heart, but eventually Polly will have to deal with the past, with the truth, and figure out what is best for her son and herself.

I absolutely loved The Book Lovers, and I found myself even more in love with Rules for a Successful Book Club. Again, Connelly focuses on the strong bond of the Nightingale family, especially their love and concern for Polly. I can't imagine what Polly endured not knowing what happened to her husband for so long and how she managed to get through each day. I couldn't help but admire her courage, not only in allowing love back into her life but also in overcoming her worries about the thirteen-year age difference. This time, Connelly tackles some serious issues, but she manages to balance it out with plenty of lighthearted and romantic moments, not to mention the hilarious banter among the book club members.

I was so sad when this book ended; it's been several weeks since I finished it, and I still find myself thinking about these characters. Connelly made them come alive, and I really wish there were a way to jump into the book and become part of the family myself!

Review originally posted on Diary of an Eccentric

Pam says

Rules for a Successful Book Club: The Book Lovers 2 is by Victoria Connelly. This second in the series is really good. It might even be better than the first one although that might be a stretch. This too, takes place in Suffolk, England.

Polly Prior was trying to be a wonderful single Mother; but she was really reaching her limit. She worked for the Nightingale book stores on a rotating basis as well as taught what classes she could get. She worked all her jobs around her most important one, raising her son Archie. For three and a half years, she had been on her own. Her husband, Sean, has just disappeared. There had been no sign of him and no one had heard from him. They didn't know if he was alive or dead. Polly was going to have to do something.

Archie brought home a stranger one day and asked if he could have guitar lessons from him. Polly was beside herself, a stranger in her home! What was Archie thinking? He just wanted guitar lessons but Polly told him no since he was already taking piano lessons. Finally, Jago, managed to convince Polly to allow him to give Archie lessons without pay. As he gave the lessons, Jago fell in love with Polly. What was Polly to do? She was still married although Sean was no where around.

This book is really good. The twists in it really keep you involved with the book. It is easy to read and reads quickly.

Angie says

3.5 stars

I enjoyed this sequel to The Book Lovers with Polly and Jago as our lead characters. All the favorite villagers are back too with plenty of book talk thrown in. The town book club was really just a sideline story, though. It was a fun, easy read that veered into a bit of serious territory. Handled well and ended well. I look forward to the next installment!

Rachel Gilbey says

Well I was expecting another book with lots of bookish references and although I wasn't disappointed on that score, the book club is only a very small part of this story. The heart of it is Polly's story and how she is just starting to get to grips with the possibility of moving on, after husband Sean went missing three and a half years ago.

As much as Polly fights it, and she really doesn't want to give in to what is clear to the reader, and she tentatively gets to know Jago Solomon a lot better. He is younger than her, but doesn't seem to mind the missing husband, nor Archie, Polly's six year old son.

Archie is adorable, and shows a maturity and level of caring not often seen in children as young as six, and I loved hearing about his fledgling guitar lessons with Jago.

This is the second book in The Book Lovers series, and can easily be read as a standalone. There are enough

references to the key points of the first book, for you to easily pick the series up from Book 2. For fans of the first book, you will be glad to see Callie still gets some of the focus, as does Sam's book shop.

In fact all the Nightingales are back in force and their Sunday lunches are always entertaining. I am loving this whole book mad family. Sam and Polly finally get their book club off the ground, and there are some slightly eccentric characters attending, in addition to snack one-upmanship.

When the action hots up in the second half of the book, Victoria Connelly proves she can tackle a tough subject really sensitively and as some revelations were made I felt more and more sympathy for Polly.

The book is easy and pleasurable to read, and is definitely up to Victoria's usual quality of storytelling. I loved Rules for a Successful Book Club and can't wait to see if and what is in book 3.

Thank you to Victoria Connelly for this review copy. This was my honest opinion.

Sarah Broadhurst says

loved revisiting the book club
i hope there will another installment soon.

Patricia says

Audiobook. I really didn't like this and had to force myself to finish it. Predictable and the characters weren't at all believable nor consistent.

Judy says

It was little in the first half of the book:

Yvonne Morgan says

I was so looking forward to reading the second book in this series and I was not disappointedloved getting to know more about the characters and liked the way that this book centred around the oldest nightingale daughter and her life in rural Suffolk with her son and the ever so yummy Jago.....but as always other stories and characters weaved there underlying magic though the pages of the book....CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT BOOK 3 HAS TO OFFER.....

Marie Ferris says

Young man older woman

What a mix for a little English village. The bookshop plays second fiddle in Book 2. A good clean story of romance between an unlikely couple a guitar and a little boy.

Milana says

Sweet. Same as the first book, the dialogue is too crafted to be natural. The author makes heavy handed references to themes in literary works being discussed by the book club that mirror what is happening in the book. There are some very problematic characterisations and insufficient motive or explanation for some events. Overall, not a bad way to spend a couple of hours. Very light and inoffensively predictable.

Roberta says

Too much domestic violence and nasty, controlling behaviour for my liking. Had enough of that in real life! But well written and I'll probably read the third one as I enjoyed the first, and hopefully the third won't contain the domestic violence.

Alayne says

Another enjoyable story from Victoria Connelly in the Book Lovers series, this one was not as much fun as the first. I loved the characters of Archie and Jago, but I wanted to shake Polly for so many reasons!

Julie Reynolds says

I was looking forward to reading more about the bookclub and it's dynamics. However, although it was mentioned in passing most of the plot line was about something else entirely. Basically the author wanted to tell the story of Polly and Jago's romance. However, this was a stretch as at one point Polly tried to match Jago with her sister.

Polly had an estranged husband who had disappeared for three years but turned up again. It was clear that he had been physically mentally and emotionally abusive before he left. I don't understand why she didn't tell the police he had returned even when he entered the house when she wasn't present. Surely she would have contacted them for her son's protection?

Altogether, it finished as I hoped but was a weak book in my opinion.
