



**37**

*Maria Beaumont*

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# 37

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## 37 Maria Beaumont

On the eve of her thirty-seventh birthday, Fran Clark finds herself in a role she would never have envisioned: that of a surprisingly desperate housewife. As Fran halfheartedly attempts to relaunch her once-vibrant career as a voiceover artist and obsesses over keeping up with the ruthless mothers' scene at her children's school, she begins to realize that her thirty-seventh year isn't going to resemble the midlife bliss she had imagined. Instead, she makes excuses for the fact that she's depressed and drinking -- a lot. But when Fran realizes she has failed her children one too many times, and begins to suspect her husband is having an affair, she knows she has hit rock bottom. It is Fran's two closest friends who ultimately come to her rescue. She learns to thank them for her salvation -- not because they are there for her, but because she discovers how to be there for them. Literate and well written, *37* is a searingly intimate and compulsively readable novel, a very modern diary of a (not quite) mad housewife. Filled with acute, often bitingly funny observations about motherhood, friendship, and the claustrophobia of suburbia, this pitch-perfect novel will resonate with any woman who has ever been stricken with self-doubt. *37* is Maria Beaumont's third novel. After the mums from her kids' school have finished with her, it may be her last.

## 37 Details

Date : Published January 8th 2008 by Hachette Books (first published August 1st 2007)

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Author : Maria Beaumont

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## From Reader Review 37 for online ebook

### **Lynn says**

I enjoyed the audio version of this book, it was well read and acted and mildly entertaining during my commute.

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### **Tiffany says**

I found some of the things described in the book realistic enough- the mention of postpartum depression, the nasty ubermaids, the absent husband, the lack of confidence after being out of the workforce for so long....but I agree with the others who have reviewed this book. Fran is a pretty pathetic character, and the whole first half of the novel, you just want to slap her silly and tell her to get a grip.

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### **Susan Dunn says**

Liked this one a lot. Francesca gave up her career as a voice over artist to raise her kids. Now that they're both in school, she has time to go back to work - but not the confidence to do so. At the same time she finds out her husband is having an affair and suddenly her afternoon glass of wine is turning into an afternoon bottle. And then two. A moving and funny portrayal of a midlife crisis. But all ends well - whew!

This is the first book from this author, and I will definitely keep my eyes out for future works.

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### **Gina says**

While hating my 37 year-old life, this book was sitting at the library so I decided to read about someone else's 37 year old misery. Okay, so I'll admit I'm a closet chick-lit reader. But if you are going to read smut, it may as well be British.

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### **Shannon says**

Life is about our relationships. They complicate, enrich and fill our lives. Closeness comes with expectations, pain, joy, self reflection, chaotic, fear and everything else. In the end, if you don't have relationships, you don't have life.

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### **Jennifer says**

Totally satisfying chick lit, only better. Brit author Maria Beamont has a funny, real and engaging voice, and

for a book about a character who's completely depressed on the eve of her 37th birthday, it's a hilarious read. Love the scathing satire of the other "mums."

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### **Chicken Lit'er says**

I started this book last year hoping to finish before my 38th birthday, but found the beginning to be a serious downer. But having plugged along even past my birthday, I was relieved to see the story gradually grow in depth and become a triumph for the main character. The ending makes up for it all, and I recommend this book to anyone looking for inspiration relationship-wise; whether it be family, friendship, or career related. Beaumont's voice is witty and humorous, one that will keep the pages turning and not disappoint.

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### **Jay G says**

Want to see more bookish things from me? Check out my YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfer...>

This book follows Fran Clark, a 37 year old house wife going through a mid-life crisis.

I did not like this book... I found it extremely slow and I basically had to force myself to finish it. The main character bothered me, the husband was a jack ass and the side characters just pissed me off.

I would not recommend this book!

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### **Bev says**

I enjoyed this story, a combination of humor and pathos. Although the main character could be considered "annoying," I felt as if I was able to get into the head of this thirtysomething alcoholic mother, and I found it to be quite intriguing. Some seem to be labeling it as British chick-lit, but I see it as more than that. This woman is in a serious crisis, and the reader witnesses her very real struggle to survive. Very good for a first novel.

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### **Robyn says**

So I was not expecting this book to be as heavy as it was. A woman turning 37 and going through a mid life crisis. I could relate to the nervousness of getting back to work after having children but she really did need professional help and I was surprised at how long it took her friends to recommend it and how she never got any help in the end. What a poor example to the millions of women who suffer from Postpartum Depression. The swearing was a bit much for me as well. Needless to say, lots of language, Some mention of sex, no violence, lots and lots of drinking and smoking.

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### **Sue Kozlowski says**

Awesome! British. Fran is turning 37. Has 2 kids. Her husband has an affair. Fran used to do voice overs. She feels useless, her son is a good soccer player. Her husband and her get back together.

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### **Brandy says**

The woman in this story starts to unravel and go down a dangerous road. I won't give anything away but to say that it was an interesting read, dark in some parts and some of her decisions made me cringe. But what I liked about it was I could see how easily this could really happen to a woman and I found myself wondering how I would respond to life in her circumstances. Kept me curious as to the ending.

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### **Rebecca Napier-Brown says**

The protagonist of this novel gave me zero reason to give a damn. A fabulously wealthy housewife who feels "lost" because she has the privilege to chuck her career and raise her kids? She compensates for this terrible burden by drinking like a fish. In the end, everything works out perfectly for the spoiled and arrogant drunken rich lady. What a surprise.

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### **Tina says**

I picked up this book in the bargain rack of Chapter's and was thoroughly surprised at just how much I enjoyed it. Was definately funny (especially if you enjoy British humour) and very sad in some parts. The story is about a suburban stay-at-home mom who has lost her way and confidence. A story all mom's can relate to in one way or another.....truly couldn't put the book down.....quick and easy read.

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### **Lisa says**

okay, maybe I chose this book because I'm 37, but I didn't expect to read one of the most DEPRESSING books in a long time!! I didn't particularly like her style, not sure if it was because it was written with a casual British tone with a lot of internal monologues. Fran is a middle-aged (am I?) housewife with severe depression and a drinking problem. Enuf said.

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