



The Strange Year of Vanessa M.

Filipa Fonseca Silva

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When Vanessa got into her car that winter's afternoon, she had no idea she was setting off on a journey with no return. An inner journey that would call into question a whole life spent living up to other people's expectations.

With tragic and comic episodes that bring together a domineering mother, a hippie aunt, a boring marriage, an insufferable boss and a friend who never knows when to shut up, "The Strange year of Vanessa M." shares Vanessa's voyage of self-discovery with us. And it makes us marvel at the power we have to question things, because there's no end to the pursuit of happiness.

The Strange Year of Vanessa M. Details

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Author : Filipa Fonseca Silva

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From Reader Review The Strange Year of Vanessa M. for online ebook

LindaW says

This was a likable albeit somewhat predictable story about a wife and mother trying to determine what she really wants from life. Kind of a midlife crisis scenario. Vanessa's year-long journey to self-realization was entertaining enough, but the ending, while not a surprise, was disappointingly too neat and tidy. 3 stars.

Carolina says

So it's my turn to make a review of ONE of my favorite books.

This book is an easy-reading, and a can't stop reading type.

I think that in some point of our life we have the same questions that Vanessa has, and we start to think about our lives and "what could have happened if we do or we don't something..."

It's the second book of the author, and a more serious side of her, showing that mature and delicate topics can be addressed in an easy and fun way.

Now, for the HATERS that FOR NO REASON rated this book with 1 star, because they understood it as a SPAM, a good advice: Get the hell out of your pc, because the excess of internet and electronic stuff are CLEARLY interposing with your sanity and nice personality that I believe you have (in the deep of your heart, and take a walk, watch the sun, birds and bees, or do some yoga classes, it also works ;)

BACK TO WHAT MATTERS: this is a GREAT book for every age and gender, if you appreciate goodreadings, you CAN'T MISS IT!

Jane says

The Strange Year of Vanessa M. starts with Vanessa appearing to have the perfect life with a loving husband, a beautiful daughter, a good job and a nice home. Appearances are often very deceptive and Vanessa soon finds herself questioning her choices and making changes. With the help of her hippie Aunt, the interference of her bossy mother and the unwanted advise of her self-proclaimed best friend, she makes changes one by one and comes to a conclusion at the end and finds what she is looking for in a happy ending. Her emotional ups and downs make this story realistic and her sense of humor keeps her seeking a better place along the way as she learns to laugh and cry with all the wacky characters in her life.

Kobby Gyampoh says

This Review is by [Http://Chicklitpad.blogspot.com](http://Chicklitpad.blogspot.com)

...So Flirting with Forty, minus a vacation-though there's an appearance of a surfing loving hunk who is ten years younger-and an irritating husband.

I am getting pissed at myself for commencing my reviews with: I love, love this book. But I can't help it, I really loved, loved this book (Apologies Niecey for the repetition. Still your unalloyed fan.) If not for the blog work, I would spend another week doing this all over again.

When I say, this book is so(oooo) like Jane Porter's hit, I really mean it. Frankly, I never completed *Flirting With Forty*. Because I didn't own a copy! I saw the book with a friend at school and this friend was so the kind of "friend" who would walk around campus clasping the book tight in the grip of her underarms to win over guys as the avid-reader type and the intelligent type. Anytime I asked her, she'd never let me have it saying she was so into not sharing written literature (You know how bitchy rich kids can get). But I was so into the blurb of the book, and I didn't want to give up. I doubt she'd be reading this blog (no kidding she's a dimbo), I stole the book. Yeah, gasp all you want. And I am not ashamed I did it. If I even really knew there was a movie, I would still have gone to such lengths. Unfortunately, I didn't finish reading it, because I came from recess one time and found out it was nowhere in my bag.

Reading this book made me somewhat fulfilled. And I really felt I had read from start to finish of you-know-what-book by now.

Another book about mid-life crisis. Another book about reconsidering all choices made in life. Another book about wanting to start over and exploring the world free from all the marital drama and the whatnots. And an exciting and fulfilling one at that.

I am not married. I don't have a kid. I don't have a friend who talks too much (I am probably that friend). I have the most adorable mum in the world unlike Vanessa's traditional one. And most importantly, I am sure if I do have all the above I wouldn't bolt like Vanessa did.

At the opening chapters, I was chuffed at our lead girl there (fortunately her roots are not sticking out like their doing on the cover), no matter how annoying your minors can get, there's no excuse for leaving them on a street and driving off. That's what being a mother is about, tolerating all the tantrums of your little ones no matter how much you would want to drive off (speaking from a guy's point of view). But it turned out, Vanessa had just been pranking the little girl. A prank which the police didn't get. And so did the judge who sat the case and sentenced her to forty sessions of therapy which would determine if she's fit to live as a normal person or one that should be locked up in a looney bin.

Through this therapy, Vanessa gets to acknowledge she isn't happy. Too much tedium, as she puts it. She doesn't know if she loves the husband who might be a prince charming in another fairy tale. She is quite sure she doesn't love her daughter. She isn't happy at her workplace with a boss who (collects dolls and) puts too much workload on her and one woman referred to as the 'Hellcat' happy to make everyone look bad in the sight of the boss (who collects dolls). She realizes all her life she's lived to please her mother. And Diana, she doesn't even know why she's friends with.

One incident of driving leads her to her hippie aunt who's in her sixties. Soon, she is leaving home, her husband, her daughter and to her mother's displeasure, moving in with this aunt.

Her stay is plagued with, concerns of all the wrong turns she'd taken during her lifetime, encounters with men who live with their daddies and mummies, a single lawyer in his thirties who loves to organize a little orgy at home and boyfriends of her aunt who like to troop around 'au-naturel'.

What I loved about this book is the little advice in the form of Vanessa's musings Fonseca drops out, and the ignored reasonings of every day life such as why there are so many nasty characters in this world, or why

married couples would allow their waistlines to expand thinking their partners would accept them for who they are then get back in shape when there's a divorce, and why people cheat. Fonseca's view on all these simple everyday questions were fresh, unique and understanding. And you can't miss Vanessa's nights with a cult of divorcées who's opinions on marriage are enlightening.

Stock characters I was enamored with were mostly Frank, the hippy aunt's sixty-something boyfriend who loves going naked during their early hour meditations. Of course Diana whose speeches contributed half the novel size, and the single orgy-loving lawyer who brought out most of the romance Vanessa had been lacking being away from her husband.

A perfect read for the holidays. Or when you begin doubting all the choices you've made. I am not sure, but I think that moment of mid-life crisis (mostly with women) is inevitable and you would love this book snuggled between a duvet and a couch, your contacts well adjusted, a constant supply of caffeine in the form of coffee in a mug to take you through. Even if you are convinced you are so happy where you are, with who you are, still pick this book just because you want something entertaining. And trust me, mid-life crisis has never been portrayed any better.

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Reviewing all Chicklit, Romance and Women's Fiction.

Liz Keegans says

An early mid life crisis? A true personal awakening? A little bit of both? What a year Vanessa.....and her husband, and her daughter, and her mother, and her aunt, and her co-workers.....had! Some for the better, some not. It's crazy to think we can end up living a life simply to please others or, at least, not upset someone else's apple cart. Although prompted into therapy because of a court ordered issue, Vanessa truly challenges herself, makes tough decisions and does the hard work to rebuild her life. At times I really didn't like Vanessa but, in the end, I like who she became and where she wants to go.

W.S. Haggard says

In spite of the sometimes awkward translation, I really liked this book. Vanessa is a woman struggling to find her own happiness in a world that has dictated her happiness until her 30's. She wrestles with issues that strike close to home while at the same time prove difficult for some people to understand: ambiguous feelings toward her child, dissatisfaction with her (by all accounts) adoring husband, conflicted feelings towards her cold mother. The story starts a bit slowly, but it is a great account of one woman's convoluted journey to find her true happiness.

Katya says

Recebi o ebook oferecido pela autora!^^

Em vários aspectos, revi-me na personagem de Vanessa... Especialmente na necessidade de provocar uma reviravolta em alguns aspectos da vida à procura da felicidade que um dia esteve presente!! Este livro foi

uma lufada de ar fresco, leve e viciante! Bem como a minha estreia na leitura em formato digital!

Kris Richards says

This was a delightful book, - it took me completely by surprise. The cover is simple and eye-catching, and yet looks incredibly professional.

The content is exceptional, a literary fiction tale of identity and belonging, it guides the reader along at a lovely pace. The writing is exquisite, and definitely breaks the literary mould of 'slow and purple prose filled'. This is a book of clean language, each word has purpose and it paints the picture of Vanessa's life, her journey, and ultimately her self discovery.

I'd recommend this to lovers of contemporary women's fiction and literary fiction. Great storytelling from an exceptional writer.

Maria Carmo says

This book is written in a very "monthly" way - the strange evolution of Vanessa during one year of her life, from the moment she leaves home in search of meaning and of herself, till the moment when, after a lot of events and mistakes, she finally discovers where she wants to be and who she really is.

Maria Carmo,

Lisbon, 7 June 2015.

Ana Gama says

I loved the book, and I highly recommend it: it's simple, exciting (I read the book in 2 days), about the real life.

It's a very current story, which could have been experienced by anyone in our society. I think we all have a bit of "Vanessa" inside us, but read and confirm for yourself!

I've read the book before (Thirty Something: Nothing's How We Dreamed It Would Be) and also enjoyed a lot.

Congratulations and best wishes / much success to Filipa Fonseca Silva, who is an excellent writer!

Hugo says

The strange year of Vanessa M. is the story of a wife and mother that finds herself in a kind of non diagnosed depression/ general dissatisfaction about several aspects of her life. She decides it's never too late to seek

happiness and starts a sometimes comic other times very serious journey to find it. I don't want to reveal more, but the author has a writing style that puts me "in the zone", as if I was watching the movie based on the book:)

Mafi says

É constante, não diria lições de moral ou lemas de auto-ajuda, mas um certo tom de reflexão sobre a sociedade em que vivemos e a vida que levamos hoje em dia. Cada vez mais virados para o nosso umbigo e preocupados com o trabalho, os filhos, as tarefas em casa, as pessoas invejosas e rancorosas e que muitas vezes esquecemos-nos de tirar um certo tempo para olhar à nossa volta. Pode parecer clichê mas não deixa de ser verdade e gostei bastante de como a autora introduziu o tema da repetição dos mesmos hábitos todos os dias, da falta de liberdade em escapar à rotina de todos os dias, receando sempre os juízos de valor dos outros.

opinião - <http://cronicasdeumaleitora.blogspot....>

Mafalda Vasconcelos says

Livro com uma escrita simples que se lê muito bem. Retrata a história de uma mulher que atravessa uma depressão ou como também lhe vi chamar “crise de meia idade”, e que acaba por perceber o que é realmente importante para a sua vida, o que faz com que se torne uma mulher feliz e realizada.

Patrícia C. says

« Emocionante, esta obra. Retrata aspectos da vida que são muito comuns, e a autora descreve-os de uma maneira magnífica! Pela primeira vez, li um livro desta autora, e fiquei fã, aliás, super fã. A maneira de escrever, como descreve os acontecimentos, tudo. »

Resto da opinião em : <http://lovelygirlwholovesread.blogspot...>

Samuel Tomé says

Filipa Fonseca Silva traz-nos uma Vanessa na casa dos trinta, casada, com uma filha, nem emprego com um chefe incompetente e que detesta. E vive infeliz, porque sempre viveu a vida que os outros queriam ou esperavam que ela tivesse, em detrimento daquilo que gostava e queria fazer. E este livro é precisamente isto: a busca pela felicidade, o 'grito do Ipiranga' para a descoberta de si próprio e do que quer fazer da sua vida.

Art. completo em: <http://aminhaleituras.blogspot.pt/201...>
