



The Older Woman

Dermot Davis

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Martin is a 24 year old guy who falls in love with a 38 year old woman. He has to grow so fast emotionally that he feels like he just got hit by a speeding bus. Not only is Frances fourteen years Martin's senior, but she's all about putting Zen into relationship, which involves every guy's worst nightmare: talking about your feelings, being conscious of your thoughts and above all, unabashed, honest communication at all times. Martin has no idea what he is getting himself into and the sharp learning curve that's required of him especially when he's thinking sex but she's thinking Zen.

WARNING: This book contains irony, tongue-in-cheek sarcasm and heavy doses of wit. Not suitable for readers expecting a traditional rom-com where the male character is a billionaire or some other fantasy variation of an alpha male. In fact, when it comes to love, the main character, Martin, has been described as a bumbling idiot... so please be warned.

The Older Woman Details

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Author : Dermot Davis

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Peter John says

I will start by saying that this is far from my usual read, there are no explosions, no alien invasions and no vampires. It's a book about relationships and love, so I opened it tentatively and was very pleasantly surprised; it caught my attention from the first page. Dermot Davis has a very smooth and easy to read style of writing which flows down the page effortlessly.

Martin is a man looking for love, in fact he's looking for the look of love but it's love itself he's really looking for. After a series of unsuccessful dates he meets Frances, a woman 14 years older than him and 14 years more mature.

The characters feel very authentic and Martin's thoughts and feelings seemed very familiar, not unlike my own during my early twenties I'm willing to admit. Strewn with great observational and character based humour Zen and Sex was an unexpectedly good read and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Whether this book would fit in with your usual reads or not, I highly recommend it and it deserves a place on anyone's bookshelf. Dermot Davis is a great wordsmith and I'm looking forward to his next excellent work.

Nick Marsh says

I'm not normally a reader of romantic comedies, generally preferring my fiction with a dash of zombies, aliens or elves, but this tightly written and very funny novel has won me over.

Martin, the protagonist, is witty, likeable, and very human - as an insight into the male psyche the book is worryingly accurate. Don't give away all our secrets, Dermot! The first person style and insight into Martin's inner workings remind me happily of the brilliant UK comedy Peep Show as well Nick Hornby's work. The dialogue is snappy and realistic, and the plot is fast moving; as someone who has just slogged his way through A Dance With Dragons, I can't tell you how relieved I was to read a book that doesn't outstay its welcome.

Excellent work! More please!

Marquita Herald says

I know this will sound cliché, but I found this novel a real breath of fresh air. Maybe it's because the author is also a playwright, but the dialogue was surprisingly authentic and, yes, funny. It's always such a wonderful surprise when a book that claims to be humorous actually makes you laugh out loud. I loved the main character's ongoing internal banter. I believe I saw another reviewer mention that for a time they'd forgotten they were reading fiction, and that's exactly how I felt. At times I found myself smiling and nodding because, even though I'm a girl and all, I could still relate to many of Martin's internal conflicts. This will be such an easy book to recommend - in fact I've already emailed my friends to check it out. I honestly look forward to reading more from this talented author.

Lourie says

Reading a romantic comedy from the male perspective was Amusing. Martin who is a romantic at heart just doesn't want to go to his ex-girl friends wedding alone. How many times have we heard this plot from the female perspective? After a succession of failed dates he meets Frances who much to his chagrin has been a witness to the failures.

I won't say that this book rocked my world I will say that it was short quaint and fun. From the love sick roommate with the obnoxious girlfriend to the cougar looking to get her life back on track it hit all the dating pitfalls. I personally found there to be a ring of truth to it.

It is well written and moves fast with short chapters so perfect for the reader who is short on time yet craves a little romantic comedy.

Linda S Amstutz says

Martin is a romantic. He's consumed with finding love – in real life and through his camera lens -- and he has idealistic opinions of what love should be. After several false starts via online dating, Martin finds Frances – the older woman who is more experienced, more sophisticated but comes with more baggage. ZEN AND SEX is a fun ride through the land of romantic comedy. The writer tells this story with speed, and humor. I have to admit, it's a guilty pleasure to read about love and romance through the heart and mind of a male character. Mr Davis tells us what the men – or at least one man –thinks of this game called Love. I highly recommend this book!

Ariel Baird says

I always get a kick out of Men POV books about romance. There is just so much truth in it. I laughed several times out loud, and even read some passages to my husband. I liked the older woman dynamic, however, I found the female character slightly annoying. I was almost rooting for him to find someone else, and was okay with her not being in the picture in the end...Zen Lesson learned- Still the main character 'Martin' was very likable, and I enjoyed his commentary throughout the entire book.

Keith says

This is a short book but contains multitudes. The hero, Martin, is in despair about his ability to maintain a long-term relationship. Everywhere he looks he sees people romancing and dancing, especially his roommate, Mike, who shares his life with a beautiful woman, Gloria.

After a number of failed match-making attempts he finally falls into a relationship with an older woman. At first leery, he realises that the age-gap doesn't matter and goes headlong into the relationship.

The book then examines what happens when two real people try to negotiate a relationship where each is

uncertain about themselves and their feelings. Without giving too much away, the book is a comedy ... and comedies traditionally end happily. Otherwise there's not a lot to laugh about ...

Dermot Davis writes Martin from the first-person perspective, and this gives him the opportunity to delve the depths and scale the heights of Martin's roller-coaster. He writes affectionately and - it seems to me - accurately about the mental contortions that 'real' people go through as they work on their relationships. What's more, he makes Martin a fairly normal man in that he's actually reluctant to talk about or discuss the relationship with Frances. The idea of the 'difficult conversation' is anathema to him, preferring instead to bathe in the mutual love-in between them rather than analysis it into paralysis. Then, when he **does** want to talk about it, she's reluctant ... all very human.

I'd recommend this book to anyone who's experienced failure and success in their romantic life. You'll recognise your feelings and the feelings of other people as they're acted out. You'll experience the frustration, again, of dealing with a partner who seems to change his or her mind about how he or she feels. And you'll laugh copiously at Martin's attempts to find a way of having a real relationship with a real woman without giving up any essential parts of his own persona.

Lolly K Dandeneau says

Martin is invited to his ex-girlfriend's wedding and cannot be seen as a loser without a girlfriend. On a mad dash to find a perfect (of course being 24 and a man that means a hot woman) girlfriend, he meets Frances who isn't quite what he was hunting for. Thirty-eight year old Frances naturally comes with life experience (or baggage if you ask a man), and an interest in Zen philosophy that soon Martin will embrace eventually. It's a funny novel told from his perspective and I enjoyed the age difference, the gap in maturity. I would have enjoyed hearing the thoughts of Frances but maybe that's unfair, after all there are many novels written from the female's perspective.

Men think differently, particularly at Martin's 'green' age of 24. So while he does come off as shallow, I have to admit a lot of 'guys' in their twenties do seem quite similar to Martin. Men and women are not looking for the same thing at the same time, it's the universe's little not so funny joke on us all.

What I enjoyed about this comedy/romance was that it isn't the same as, dare I say it, chic-lit. It's nice for a change to read from a man's perspective, even if he comes off as a jackass at times.

Martin and Frances give us a lot of laughs as they both grow in the novel and I think women will enjoy it as much as men, but differently of course...

Joecool Review says

I won't beat around the bush....I absolutely LOVED this book! I absolutely felt like I was inside Martin's brain and he was a real man with real feelings. I think that many more men than will admit have the same insecurities and long for that lifetime companionship.

I loved that we felt his anxiety and went through the build up to worst case scenario with him. I know I do this myself often and you can have yourself so worked up for no apparent reason. There were many times throughout the book that I wanted to tell him to breathe....but I think that is why it felt so real and genuine to me.

I read some of the other reviews about the book before I started because I like to know how my perception matches up. I felt like Dermot Davis gave us a true glimpse into a real persons mind....the thoughts are not always PC nor are they necessarily what we really feel. Sometimes you are just working up a scenario in your head that is truly the “worst-case” and then you are surprised by the true outcome once you have a chance to talk with the person.

Something I would definitely be interested in reading (if there is any thought of more on Martin and Frances), would be the same story from Frances’ perspective. ?

F.A Carrillo says

Guilty pleasure guaranteed!

What started as a random encounter of fate between freelance photographer Martin and Frances, a woman 14 years his senior, develops into something unexplainably profound as subjects of zen, sex and love become entwined in their unconventional relationship.

Told from the unique perspective of Martin, Zen and Sex is well-paced, realistic and filled with passion.

Martin’s voice is sensitive, intense and brutally honest as he buckles himself in for the ride with Frances that will soon change his life.

Guilty pleasure mixed with surprising poignant and heartbreaking human moments, Zen and Sex easily sweeps the reader off their feet from page one.

If you’re looking for a little oomph and depth in your romantic comedy, then this is the right book for you.

MsKingsPens says

I always enjoy reading romance from a guy's perspective and Mr. Davis definitely delivered with Martin. His thoughts, feeling and just general way of dealing with women was so spot on to me. I didn't quite get why a twenty four year old was so hot to find a serious relationship, but that's just me I guess. I liked this one so why only three stars? It's supposed to be a romantic comedy and I didn't find it to be overly funny or romantic (the only really "funny" passages were the ones that I think we're supposed to be romantic).

Kevin Marsh says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book Zen and Sex. A few weeks ago I read The Younger Man, a story from the perspective of Frances, the female character, and was thrilled to discover that Zen and Sex featured the same characters. The story was similar but from the perspective of Martin, the male character. What a fascinating idea, I was gripped from the start, caught up in the psychological turmoil and humour of everyday life and

complex relationships. The book was well written with some great life observations, humour and confusion that haunt all of us. It doesn't seem to matter in which order these books are read, but I recommend you do read them both for a fully rounded view of human observations. I look forward to reading more books written by Dermot.

Cal says

This was an interesting, even delightful read. I would recommend this book to any romantic, hopeless or not. There is reasonable, moderate sexual play without kink. The story has characters that feel very real. The male protagonist starts out as a very stereotypical guy on the prowl for a replacement girlfriend after a breakup. There are many twists and turns before he finds an interesting one who is more than what he expected. The repetition of his unsuccessful romantic interactions follow him again and again. This time his needs and the feedback he gets cause him to modify and retry his efforts, many times. These searches for a successful relationship are comical but feel very true and resonate with me, and I'm sure, many people in the singles scene. The author ends the story with an abrupt HEA that happily satisfies.

Jeanie V. says

Two things I really, really liked about this book. First, this book had me cracking up big time in such a good way!!! Second, I really liked that this book was told from a regular/typical male POV. I especially liked the character of Martin, who is the hero of the story, but he's not the striking, dashing, drop dead-gorgeous, swoon-worthy book hero you always read about in romance books. He's typical, average, regular... REAL. And I really really liked that about him. He was funny but he was so real to me and I couldn't help but cheer for him and want what he wanted. Really cute story. I really liked it!

Nicole Moore says

While I was in the mood for a romantic comedy, I'll admit that I wasn't really expecting much from this one. What do men know about writing a romantic comedy? It turns...quite a bit. I enjoyed the guided tour through the male mind. I found myself chuckling again and again. Most of all, I was rooting for the most unlikely romance of all because when it's love, it can be so unexpected.

The best part of this is that there is so much more depth to this story than I imagined I would experience. And now I find myself stuck in the head of Martin, wishing I knew what happened next. Zen and a Sequel? A Sequel and Sex? I'm all for it. Mr. Davis, start on that immediately.
