



True Enough

Stephen McCauley

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New York writer Desmond Sullivan doesn't believe in marriage. His five happy years with his lover Russell haven't fundamentally challenged Desmond's conviction that, at best, true love is "an acute form of tolerance." He's sexually restless, and looking forward to his four-month teaching stint in Boston as an attempt to regain some of his own identity and try to complete the biography he's been writing. Jane Cody, a Boston public television producer, is similarly disenchanted with her marriage to a clumsy, kindly professor of English. Lately, Jane has been meeting her ex-husband Dale for drinks and coffee, although she's well aware that he's a jerk. With so much going wrong in her life, it strikes Jane that she and Desmond could collaborate on a series of documentaries, salvaging both of their foundering work lives. A page-turner, not by virtue of its plot, but because of Stephen McCauley's utterly engaging narrative voice, *True Enough* reprises some of the themes of his earlier novel, *The Object of My Affection*. It also has the virtues of a good Woody Allen film: Great comic lines and brilliant social observation among a small circle of successful friends. And like so much of Allen's work, the subject is married love: Fidelity and betrayal in their many guises. A funny, well-developed novel with surprising emotional depth. --Regina Marler

True Enough Details

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From Reader Review True Enough for online ebook

Pam says

Entertaining book that helps one realize while not all relationships are perfect, perhaps it's true enough?

Lapetitesteph says

Excellent.

James says

McCauley's first novel THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION seems to be the seed planted that each of his succeeding novels germinate from and grow and branch forward. His style is a comedy of manners mixed with a lot of sad truths about relationships that his characters find themselves enmeshed in and start to doubt and analyze. Usually two people meet one female and one male (check the box that signifies as gay male) and become friends and help each other peel back the feelings they have for those around them and those they love. This novel is no different, but still a great perceptive character study of two essentially lonely people married and/or living with a significant other who feel that the decisions they make or made in Life may have been wrong and each needs to find themselves in the swamp of emotions in their mind.

This one, also, has an underlying theme about truth and lies and how we often tell just enough to get through our relationships and every day life. Sometimes those we love need not to be doubted by how we think they feel or how we feel about them, but embraced by our real underlying feelings and not feel as if we are attending, metaphorically, a daily masquerade of going through the motions of deception.

McCauley has a great way of writing about his main and supporting characters, likable or not, and making them very human.

Suzanne Macartney says

Has comic moments featuring a struggling working mother (TV producer) with precocious son. Good passages but some disappoint compared to last novels. Follow-up novel is better too. But I'd read it again anyway if I was out of McCauley novels.

Shilpa says

Dull and predictable in many ways yet it had its moments. Took me a while to finish but was a fairly satisfying end.

Betty says

Some interesting life lessons but story gets bogged down by too much commentary by the characters about their life. Plot got stuck that way.

Allyson Randolph says

I like McCauley's stuff although the people in his stories never seem quite real to me. I found myself wanting to hear Russell's and Thomas's takes on the action.

This was a nice little story with a neat twist and just enough left ambiguous.

Ann says

Light and entertaining, but with some trenchant observations of today's society. I'd like to read more from this author.

Lisa says

McCauley's writing has been compared to both Jane Austen and Woody Allen! So, we fortunate readers get observant social commentary served up with perfect comic timing. This novel is really mostly character driven; Jane Cody and Desmond Sullivan meet, not as potential lovers (Desmond is gay and both are in monogamous relationships) but as two people who are drifting off the course of their lives and how they help right each other. Charming!

Jae says

More forgettable than the last book, though I was entertained enough when I read it. But I did just have to get up and look at it to remember it at all, and I still don't remember it all that well. Kind of -- is there a term for gay chick-lit? This is that. No, actually it's more like the gay version of the last book, chick-lit aged and distressed a little.

Jackie Simons says

Read 2/02

Sarah says

By the end of *True Enough* by Stephen McCauley, I definitely wanted to know what was going to happen with each of the characters. I do think, however, that he pulled everything together too quickly in the end, perhaps too succinctly or predictably.

P Bright says

This book had many clever observations. However, the overriding theme of unfaithfulness was too disturbing for me to appreciate the humor. Okay, I know that the American marriages are falling apart in record numbers and this author was attempting to show two people come to grips with their relationships in what turned out to be positive ways. Sorry, but I still found it too disturbing.

Neet says

This is a novel of two people who find themselves at a crossroads in their relationships and careers. We meet Jane Cody, a fortyish woman who is married to a man who loves her, has an overweight and smart mouth 6 year old boy who calls her Jane instead of mom, and whose cranky, and complaining mother-in-law lives in a carriage house on their property. Jane makes list in code, feels because she is forty, she feels she has become invisible at her career as a PBS producer for many of the shows at her local station. Especially with a younger and more energized co-worker beating at her heels. She is also good friends with her exes current wife (Carol). Carol thinks that Jane's ex and her current husband, Dale is cheating on her. Carol begs Jane to meet with Dale and find out the truth. Also, we get Jane's endless lists that are written in code and that aren't always truthful. We next meet Desmond Sullivan, a biographer that had moderate success in a biography of another writer who was a closet case. Desmond lives in New York and is in a 5 year relationship with Russell. Desmond, who is almost 40 and been working on another biography of a Z level singer who had a little success in the 50's. Desmond has decided (without discussion with Russell) to accept a 4 month long teaching position at Deerforth College in Boston. Since the person in the biography lived in Boston in her latter years, Desmond feels it will be great for research (he seems to have been working on the book for a couple of years). Russell isn't happy with Desmond leaving. Desmond seems to be in a rut, in his relationship, in writing his book, in his life. Of course, Desmond meets Jane's husband, Thomas who teaches also at the college. When worlds collide... Thomas strikes up a friendship with Desmond who comes to dinner at his home, where he meets Jane. Jane makes a proposal (that's not indecent) to Desmond. I won't say what the proposal is, but it's just the start in this funny, heartwarming, and dad novel. This is a good read and highly recommended.?

Tajma says

Boy, was this funny. Great no-brainer.
