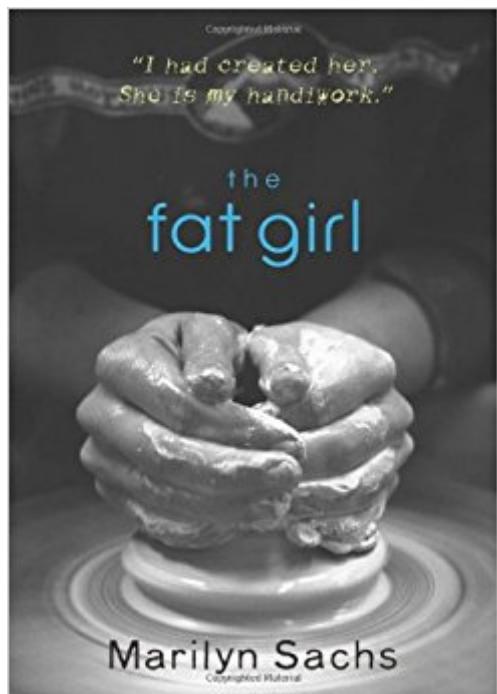


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The Fat Girl



Synopsis

Jeff Lyons can't stand Ellen de Luca, the fat girl in his ceramics class. She's huge, clumsy, can't throw a pot to save her life, and stares at Jeff all the time. But he's a ""nice guy"" and feels terrible when Ellen overhears his hurtful remarks about her. The ""crumbs of kindness"" he tosses her way soon turn into advice on weight loss, college, clothes, hair . . . and, to everyone's surprise, good-looking Jeff actually dumps his pretty girlfriend to be with the fat girl! Re-creating Ellen is a labor of love, Jeff thinks. But as her pounds melt away, Jeff resents the happy, independent young woman he has unleashed. Where is the gratitude for all he's done for her? With this darkly ironic take on the classic Pygmalion tale, Marilyn Sachs offers young readers a candid portrayal of what happens when the intoxicating thrill of control is confused with love.

Book Information

Paperback: 226 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,266,146 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Weight #1516 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance #1791 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Jeff is in love with Norma when he makes a cruel remark about the fat girl, Ellen. When he apologizes to Ellen, he senses his power over her, and enters a Svengali-like relationship with her. "This is a clear-sighted, gripping story that will induce readers to think about relationships," noted PW. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Compelling and discussion-provoking ..." "Compelling and discussion-provoking ..."

--Booklist"Gripping." --Publishers Weekly-Compelling and discussion-provoking ...-

--Booklist-Gripping.- --Publishers Weekly

Ms. Sachs passed away late 2016. I always have enjoyed her books. This was her last book and I am glad I have it as part of my permanent library. She wrote about life when it was happening.

I read this book in junior high. I was a fat girl myself, well maybe not that fat, I guess I was considered "pleasingly plump". When I read it I thought it was good of Jeff to be kind to Ellen the fat girl. He decides he wants to be her friend and help her feel better about herself. It really shows you, however, how sometimes a helping hand can become a stronghold!! In my experience, growing up, there were people I wanted to help and sometimes did too much for them, like young Jeff ends up doing. Jeff starts doing things for Ellen which she is perfectly capable of doing herself. It's a very interesting book with a non-saccharine ending. If you read books on co-dependency or have been thru AA/AlAnon, etc., this book should be required reading. It's fictional yet a perfect example of co-dependency. It should accompany Melody Beatty's book, "Codependent No More". Not only is Jeff showing signs of codependency, but his mom and dad are, too. This usually runs in families and is a learned behavior. Check out this book!!

Okay book but didn't like the ending.

I don't know even know how to start this review. This book sure was different. It wasn't what I expected at all. And this, this is a good thing. The story is about Jeff Lyons, a high school senior who wants to transfer from chemistry class to ceramics' because he's not that great of a student (doesn't have the best grades) and being in ceramics class will be less demanding and that way he can go to college. There he meets Ellen De Luca, or "the fat girl" like he calls her. She's twice his width, clumsy and super bad at ceramics. He can't stand her and it doesn't help that she's always looking at him and that bothers him. In that class he also meets Norma Jenkins, who's blonde, beautiful and has a talent with clay. They're both good looking and it's no surprise they become a couple. But one day in class when Jeff makes a comment on Ellen's lacking skills in ceramics and she hears him and ends up crying; that's the turning point for him. He tries to be nicer to her and when she confesses a secret, he wants to help her more than ever. And so starts the transformation from fat girl to Ellen. I really liked this book and the summary caught my attention right away. I thought this was going to be a cute love story about how the guy falls in love with the underdog and live happily

ever after; I was so wrong. But that doesn't mean I didn't enjoy it. Jeff is a good guy and cares about his family, specially his mom since his dad left him and his sister years ago. His sister, Wanda, who's a teenager has her own issues and they play as a second plot to the story. He and his mom sometimes don't have the best communication, but that doesn't take out the fact that they both care about each other. So, when things aren't going good at home, it seems like his escape is Ellen. Like the nice guy everyone says he is, he tries helping her come out of her shell. He helps her find a hobby, think about college, and care about her personal image. He even helps her with the make-up and clothes she should wear. That part felt kind of weird because he's a guy, you know? But it all makes sense in the end. At first, all this looks like good intentions from his part and they probably were but not for the right reasons. It doesn't take long for it to become uncomfortable. He becomes sort of obsessed with her and her only. Now that Ellen is finding her place and losing weight, he doesn't want her to be independent. He tries to mold her his way and what he thinks is right for her, but the thing is that it looks almost caring. It confuses you. You don't know what to think of him. I got mad at him. But at the same time he doesn't come off as a bad boy. Do you know what I mean? One thing I didn't know was that this book was originally published in 1984 and it's on its third printing. Again, I'm glad I picked this book up. It was really different. Even though it's been years since this book has been out, you should definitely pick up a copy and experience it yourself. I haven't read a contemporary like this one before.

I am very happy and excited about this product. It looks good, feels real, and cuts very well. I definitely think the product is of good quality for the low price. In other words, you get a good product for the price you are paying for. Definitely recommended! great. OK Very well. as a gift to tiny,

I picked this book up because I had struggled with my weight as a teen and was interested by the synopsis. As I read and the amount of pages remaining dwindled down, I realized that story really wasn't going anywhere. Sachs has a habit of opening doors within the story and then never revisiting the specific situations again, almost making you feel as though she just threw those pieces in as fillers. Also, while I certainly believe that not all stories are meant to have a happy ending, per se, I believe there should be some sort of closure or resolution at the end of the novel. This book lacks that. After reading the last page, I closed the book feeling quite ambivalent toward the entire novel as well as the characters in it. There wasn't enough emotion in this book to really make you feel a connection to anyone, right up to the last page. It wasn't mind-blowing or shocking, it was just

kind of dead. I'm not saying it was a terrible book, and to be quite honest I do enjoy her style of writing, but I really feel as though she could have done more with the story, because the premise is so interesting. I would recommend maybe picking this book up at the library over paying money for it, because chances are you'll read it once and that will be about it. There isn't enough substance to this book that will keep you coming back for more.

It had all the factors for a great story: The drama, a prohibited love and a new perspective...a guy's perspective. I guess it was nice to view things in a guy's P.O.V (point of view) but it didn't change the fact that the actual development of the story didn't reach its full potential. I was disappointed when I finished it, not because it completely sucked but because more could have been done to it. Many of the characters annoyed me, like Wanda, Norma and Jeff's mom, but it's all part of the story. The level of Jeff and Ellen's romance was G rated, which collided with the gravity of the drama Jeff's family was going through. I mean, Sachs even included suicide, a touchy subject, but Jeff and Ellen's physical progress didn't advance much which made it seem like they were fifteen years old, not seventeen. It had a good story plot but not a good storytelling.

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