



Ditch Flowers

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Trouble comes in threes, Grandma CeCe always said...

A baby. Just holding one sets Julia's heart thumping. She's wanted a child for so long. When she finally gets pregnant, she's bursting to tell the world....until a checkup from the doctor confirms a miscarriage.

Julia's world feels like it's dissolving. This second tragedy following her father-in-law's death, shakes her and her husband Greg. To support his mother, they uproot their lives and move to Greg's childhood home. Under the bright Midwestern sky, Julia can feel a new world and new hope beginning.

But trouble comes in threes, and soon a boy shows up at Julia's new daycare whose blue eyes and freckled face look eerily like Greg's. Despite her love for her husband, Julia finds her thoughts haunted by the boy's face, and she can't shake the feeling that her husband has a secret.

Ditch Flowers Details

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Author : Amanda Linsmeier

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From Reader Review Ditch Flowers for online ebook

Kathy says

The author really deserves credit for producing such a wonderful book. As I read the book, I was drawn into Julia's character: her emotions, her thoughts, her decisions. The story plot is not very complex, but the author manages to infuse it with strong emotions and thought. I have not experienced the miscarriages Julia did, but I immediately felt her pain. I also liked the way the author brought Greg, her husband and his pain out in the story. So often, these sort of books spend a lot of time focusing on one character's pain without much mention of the other main character's pain. It was heartening as well as sad to see this couple, once filled with such joy, love and enthusiasm about their joined lives together, change into two emotionally struck people. I found the twist of the story, where Julia meets a youngster, who very closely resembles Greg, to be a nice creative touch and added a lot to the plot. How she handles this is a clever fascinating twist. If you had asked me if I would read a book like this one before I read it, I probably would have said I would not. However, I am quite glad read it, and am quite glad Amanda Linsmeier wrote it. It is a wonderful read for anyone looking for a fascinating, heart felt story. I recommend it highly. I received this from Library Thing to read and review.

Theresa Theune says

I love, love, loved this book. Linsmeier's portrayal of the struggles of infertility are heart wrenching and honest. She takes you on a journey of the struggles that real couples face. I found myself trying to imagine what I would do in the situations that her heroine faces, and wondering if the standards that I have set for myself would hold true if they were ever really tested. The issues that Julia faces in this story, both in her marital relationship as well as in her struggle to conceive, speak the heart of every woman. There is something in these situations that we can all relate to, that we have all worried and pondered about. Like some of my other favorite authors, Linsmeier has penned a novel that celebrates women. From Grandma CeCe to her mother and sister, her unconventional new friend and, of course, Julia, she paints a picture of the strength of women. This is one that I will reread over and over again!

Susan says

This was a fairly easy read, but it was far from boring! It had some out loud comedy, and characters to fall in love with!

Jim Cangany says

Ditch Flowers is a lovely tale about what it means to love, how to cope with loss, and most importantly, the power of forgiveness. In her debut novel, Amanda Linsmeier gives us a realistic of look into the life of a young woman who wants to be a mother despite the roadblocks thrown in her way. The question is whether she'll ever get her wish, and at what cost. If you like stories about real people and the decisions that form

their lives, don't miss this one!

Jancy Jean says

Ditch Flowers was an amazing story written by a gifted author! The main character, Julia had tremendous strength as she struggled through tragedy and devastating loss again and again. She never gave up in her determination to have and hold her own baby. Learning of her husband's betrayal did not stop her from opening her heart to his "love " child and forming a friendship with Megan. Loved this book and the talent Ms Linsmeier has to engulf the reader into the story!

Steve Authier says

I bought Ditch Flowers after reading a quote from the author, Amanda Linsmeier, in an article where first-book authors were giving advice to other potential first-book authors. She said, "Write the book you want to read." It spoke to me. I immediately checked out her book, read the synopsis and bought it. I'm glad I did, because I met Julia James, the main character in Ditch Flowers.

I'm not a big fan of first person narration so I struggled at first. I was won over because Linsmeier can write. She pulls you into Julia's world quickly. She does a great job at developing Julia's character and gives us a chance to connect with her. We're allowed to feel the myriad of emotions Julia wrestles with as she deals with the lost babies, infidelity, and the tough choice she has to make. The obvious criticism is that certain elements of the plot might come across a bit contrived, but because Julia's character is so well written we can easily get beyond the somewhat predictability of the plot. The plot here is more of a vehicle to let us into Julia's mind, heart, and soul. Plus, sometimes stuff happens in life that if put into a story might come across a little contrived, so I was able to push beyond this weakness.

I loved Julia's inner strength and her willingness to be honest with herself as she worked through the challenges she faced on her journey, and that's what we get to do. We get to go on a journey with a person who feels, who suffers, who is torn by betrayal, who questions life. There are some well written simple lines in this book. One of my favorites is "But I do pray, every day. It seems every second, every kick from the baby is a prayer in itself." Linsmeier can write. This book is worth reading. I for one am happy that Linsmeier wrote the book she wanted to read.

Tiffany Jones says

I received a copy of Ditch Flowers in exchange for a review from www.novelreviewers.com.

Julia James has always wanted to be a mother more than anything, so when she finds herself expecting her first child, she and her husband, Greg, are truly excited. When she miscarries, it's understandable that they're both devastated. That it comes so soon after the unexpected death of Greg's father, makes it even harder for them both to deal with. Greg and Julia decide to move from Louisiana back to Greg's hometown in Wisconsin to be there for his mother and so that Greg can take over the family wine business. Because Julia's Grandma CeCe always told her that trouble comes in threes, she is anxiously waiting for the other shoe to drop. When she meets little Jacob at her new daycare job, she's mystified at how much he looks like Greg.

His hair and eye color are identical to those of her husband and he even has Greg's dimples and freckles. She finds herself drawn to the sweet little boy and to his mother, becoming fast friends with her as she tries to investigate to see if there is any connection between her husband and this sweet little boy and his mother. Have the multiple miscarriages and her inability to carry a pregnancy to full term clouded Julia's judgement? Is she just being paranoid or has her husband been unfaithful? Was another woman able to give Greg the child that they both so desperately want? And if he was unfaithful, what will Julia do? Should she give him another chance or end their marriage?

I really enjoyed reading Ditch Flowers and thought all of the characters were well written. I admired the inner strength and courage that Julia discovered in herself as she experienced the tragedies and setbacks. I even liked Greg, despite being prepared not to from the start. For the most part he was very supportive and a good husband, which surprised me. I enjoyed that every single character, even the minor ones seemed real. I found myself relating with what they were going through and feeling. I hope to read more of Linsmeier's work.

<http://amzn.to/1OmKest>

Jessica says

What readers will love about this book, I think, is the strength of the heroine. She's a little hesitant at first, but once she gains her footing watch out. It's also a great tale of love and acceptance. Readers of women's fiction with teeth should pick up this one.

Katie Stevenson says

I was always going to read this book. I personally know the author from college, and she works at my local library. Plus, the cover is perfect and the title is fantastic. So it was nothing but huge bonus that the book itself is awesome. It digs into the pieces of marriage, of life, that are not often examined, and it's done so, so well; I felt like I could've been friends with Julia. I read it in a day while I've been sick. Absolutely, highly recommended, and the bonus to you is getting to know a new and fantastic author!

Julie Hall says

I received a copy of Ditch Flowers by Amanda Linsmeier in exchange for an honest review through LibraryThing.com. I loved this book...no...I'm in love with this book. I like to learn about the author while I'm reading and I was able to read an interview with the author regarding this book. I know that she took a long time to write it and that made me curious about how it was going to progress. I was not disappointed.

This is a very well written and very well thought out story that is complete and fulfilling to read. This is a journey of a life of joy, hard work, disappointments and rewards. This story is REAL, it is every woman and every woman can relate in one way or another to some part of Julia's life. The story is honest and at times will make you cry and in turn become angry and even joyful. I was completely absorbed from page one and thoroughly enjoyed the entire journey. I've read some reviews that claimed the book was long, it is a bit long, but I promise at the end, when it is over...you will be grateful for that. You will want more and yet you won't need anymore.

I highly recommend this book to anyone that has lost a loved one, fallen in love or if you are a woman. Thank you Amanda Linsmeier! I can't wait to read more of what you have written. Well done!

Brooke says

I really enjoyed this book but I have one complaint. Why the eff did Julia not kick Greg out on his ass & raise her baby like a boss single mom. I hated Greg so much. He was not sorry for cheating on her considering he lied to her about it for more than 3 years. I was so disappointed he got his happy ending .

Jamie McLachlan says

4* This story was heart wrenching. At times it made me cry, and at other times it made me angry. Both emotions are in sympathy with the main character. Julia, has gone through three miscarriages. Even if you haven't experienced such a harrowing event, the author pulls you into the depths of Julia's despair that you more than sympathize with her. Then, Julia meets Jacob-a little boy who bears an uncanny resemblance to her husband-and you're left with the burning question, "Did her husband cheat on her?" The mystery grips you as Julia finds herself pulled to the boy and his mother. The main character experiences so much sorrow and is forced to find strength within herself, leaving the reader to wonder if Julia will ever find the happiness she seeks. The narrative was fluid, bringing the reader from scene to scene effectively, even if there were moments focused on Julia's decorating. I give the novel four stars for the author's ability to raise such strong emotions in me, maintaining a plot that kept my interest, and creating a character I liked (even if I did want more from her at the end).

Tara Meissner says

Amanda Linsmeier has a poet's view of the world. The details in her writing pull the writer into the scenes crafted in Ditch Flowers. The story is beautifully told. The theme of resiliency stands out. Julia, the main character, is a woman of strength and grace. Linsmeier's debut novel provides great insight to the lives of women during their child-bearing years. It is a brave work that doesn't gloss over pregnancy loss, but rather paints its reality in a way that those who haven't experienced it can empathize. The pacing of the book, kept me eagerly turning the pages rooting for a happy ending. I look forward to seeing what Linsmeier writes next.

Nicole says

A beautifully written story about all the ups and downs life can throw at us. This book will not disappoint. No matter what you have been through in life the main character will make you cry, laugh and reflect on your own conflicting emotions through personal hardships and struggles. Julia reminds us that there is hope and that the greatest gift we can give to ourselves and others is pure and simply; love.

C.H. Armstrong says

Really, really, really enjoyed this book. I enjoyed the characters and the story immensely The author did a beautiful job of bringing the reader into the mind of the main character and the anguish of infertility. Very nicely done, and certainly a title I'd recommend to my friends.
