



# Star Craving Mad

*Elise Abrams Miller*

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## **Star Craving Mad** Elise Abrams Miller

- In a decade when magazines like "People (3.6 million circ.) and "In Style (1.7 million circ.) dominate over those with a harder news "focus, Elise Abrams Miller has brilliantly tapped into readers' collective, celebrity-obsessed mentality to create a novel for our times.- The curator of a popular reading series in Manhattan's Lower East Side, Elise Abrams Miller is committed to promoting this book using her connections within this vibrant literary scene. A frequent presence in the online community, her essays have been published on nerve.com, smallspiralnotebook.com, and papotage.com.- The success of books like "The Nanny Diaries (St. Martin's Press, 2002) and "Object of My Affection (Pocket, 1994) suggests that there is a huge audience for humorous novels that satirize the private lives of the rich and famous.- With its appeal to a young, hip readership, the original trade paperback format of this novel is ideal for launching this new author.

## **Star Craving Mad Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2004 by Warner Books (NY) (first published 2004)

ISBN : 9780446692847

Author : Elise Abrams Miller

Format : Paperback 246 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Fiction, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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## **From Reader Review Star Craving Mad for online ebook**

### **Carrie says**

Goodreads giveaway won on July 20, 2015, not yet received copy to review.

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### **Melissa says**

Maddie loves celebs, when she has one in her daughter's class, she can't stop thinking about him. This is the right way to write chick lit.

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### **Hestia Istiviani says**

hasil bookswap IRF 2016

not kind of my cup, tapi lumayan lah buat distraksi di tengah badai kerjaan akhir tahun. mari kembali ke YA!

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### **Teresa Kander says**

This was a truly hilarious easy read. Maddy is tough to like in the beginning, but she becomes more personable as the book progresses. The same is true of James, her assistant teacher. Nic and Shelby were never likable, but that was basically the point of their characters.

As a former teacher myself, I found Maddy's behavior with Nic totally unprofessional and disturbing. However, what Shelby did to her in return was even worse, and I am very happy with how that situation was resolved.

Even though the entire plot has an air of unbelievability, the theme of the book strikes a chord. What it boils down to is not judging a person by their looks, but getting to know who they are on the inside. If you're looking for laughs, this is the book for you.

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### **Karen Germain says**

Last year, I participated in the BookSparks annual summer reading challenge. This year, I found my "book-plate" to be too full to take on the challenge, but I was excited to read Elise A. Miller's *Star Craving Mad*, which is part of the 2015 challenge. Thank You to SparkPress for an advanced copy of Miller's novel, in exchange for an honest review.

PLOT - Maddy Braverman is a first grade teacher at an elite private school in Manhattan. Single and lonely, Maddy straddles between setting an example as a wholesome teacher and hitting the New York dating scene. Her world is turned upside down when the school year begins and she has a new student, Lola, the daughter

of A-List celebrities, Nic and Shelby Sebolt. Maddy begins to fantasize about hunky Nic, who is not only married, but seems otherworldly. She is rocked to the core to discover that Nic is more attainable than she imagined and before she knows it, she is caught up in a love affair and thrown into Nic's celebrity lifestyle. Maddy is uneasy about her secret life, especially when she realizes that the fallout would affect not only Lola, but also Maddy's friends and family, including her free-spirited and handsome teaching assistant, James.

**LIKE** - For starters, what a great title. I love the play on words and it perfectly sums up Maddy's behavior while she is having an affair with Nic. The themes in *Star Craving Mad* are engaging. The story fulfills that part of me that loves to read about celebrities and the crazy rich, so it was entertaining to see this behind the curtains look through Maddy's eyes. However, the flip-side of *Star Craving Mad*, is it's a story with heart. Although Maddy is having an affair with a married man, we see her going through the conflicting emotions and ultimately, we root for her to make better choices. She's a likable protagonist and as she interacts with the children in her classroom, there is an element of sweetness and innocence add to the story that gave me the warm fuzzies.

**DISLIKE** - My interest in the story waned the last third of the book. I think it may be that Maddy took so much crap for so long, that it was getting to be a drag. I regained interest in the story at the very end when she had her redemption. It was a satisfying ending.

**RECOMMEND** - *Star Craving Mad* is an enjoyable chick-lit, summer type of read. I enjoyed it, but I'm not sure that in the grand scheme of my "Books Read in 2015" it will be remembered. It provided a good escapist read while on my summer vacation.

Like my review? Check out my blog!

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### **Amanda says**

This was a fun book to read. It was fun to experience the story through the main character's vantage point, to see her emerge from her quarter-life crisis. If you are looking for well-written book with some spice, this is it!

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### **Alvi Harahap says**

It's a quite good (although cliché) story of a teacher falling in love (or obsessed?) to her student's father, who is a famous celeb, Nick. She wrote a novel which later was hijacked by Nick's wife, a star who started to lose her charm in the media (ah, you know all that publicity celebs want. Anything to make them popular!). In the end, Mad realized that she found her true prince charming in her assistant, a not-famous-and-not-rich musician (singer).

Mad really needs to grow up! She acted in a childish manner in the way she got drunk here and there, fucking around with a silly dream of fairytale's romance. She should have known better! Well, actually I believe people like her DO know better. It's just they refuse to know. They push the thoughts of it into their unconsciousness so they can dream and dream, make mistakes, cry, and be miserable.

Well, I'm not saying that I'm the good perfect girl, being so confident and full of security. I'm not. In fact, that typical of insecure girl is in me (and in almost girls in the world, that makes those chic lit sold out). But, since words—especially MANY words compiled in books—are extremely powerful in affecting me, I'm so not reading such stuffs! Hey, I don't need to be affected by piles of books of insecure miserable girls. Once again, what we read is so powerful in affecting our state of mind. And I'm so not contaminating my mind, my moods, my behavior, my life with such readings! I don't want to think or act like them. I don't want to be miserable.

After all, the novel's got a good copy writing there in the title. "Star Craving Mad", which is Mad is the name of the girl who become the main character in the novel. Quite good, huh?:)

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### **Bianca says**

I received this novel through NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.

This is supposed to be a modern romance of sorts about Maddy, a 30 year old teacher, who's single and a bit obsessed with famous people.

Honestly, this novel was all over the place, somewhat spasmodic, just like our heroine. Unfortunately, I didn't find Maddy likable at all. As for the other characters, they were poorly developed and I didn't care much about them either. I didn't think Maddy's drunken escapades were amusing. Even her infatuation with a movie star, the father of one of her students, seemed somewhat contrived.

If I were to say something positive, that would be that it's relatively short.

Unfortunately though, this was a forgettable read.

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### **Kristin (Kritters Ramblings) says**

A teacher who is feeling extra single and is surrounded by celebrity things that she admires and she gets all mixed up in things that she probably should have steered away from!

I just didn't love Maddy, she was frustrating. I didn't love how she was acting at 30 and as I am not far from her age, I just couldn't get on her page.

The one part that kept me going were her students. The classroom just made for great reading, I loved her students and the teachers (the principal, eh). I loved how her writing was inspired by her students and I would have loved more of this.

I don't always love books, but to keep this blog real I want to share them alongside the ones that I adore. Even though I didn't love this one, I would still read another by this author, I always give an author a few books before I write them off.

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## **Sarah says**

I really liked this book. It was a real quick read, but the teacher stuff held my interest because I could relate. Her obsession with stars is pretty normal, maybe a tad bit overboard, but the candor of the writing is hilarious. Plus, the romance made it all worthwhile. I would definitely recommend.

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## **Kirsten says**

I received this book through a giveaway on goodreads.

I began this book and could not put it down! I must also say that it's been a really long time that I've gotten that immersed into a book to the point of not being able to put it down, so it was very refreshing to me. I'm personally not a very "star struck" person and generally don't care for celebrity lives or celebrity gossip but I still was so engaged in this story. While I do feel the characters could had more story to them I still enjoyed it.

It's a very relaxing book. Great for cuddling up in this cold autumn weather with :)

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## **Fox says**

I won this book through the GoodReads first reads program in exchange for an honest review.

Meet Maddy Braverman, a thirty-something first grade teacher in the heart of New York City. She's dissatisfied with her job, but too complacent to seek work elsewhere. With no boyfriend, or will to really try and get one, she seeks solace in the celebrity tabloids and gossip that flows throughout the city. When a new addition to her classroom proves to be the daughter of Nic and Shelby Seabolt, the A-list Hollywood power couple she's obsessed with, her life promptly falls apart. It's all she can do not to spend the whole of her time fantasizing about Nic Seabolt. Not even her new hippie assistant teacher, James, can distract her from her quest.

Now, I'm a fan of chick lit to a certain extent. I adore Jennifer Crusie and will honestly pick up anything she writes. *Star Craving Mad*, however, largely left me cold. The situation was too unbelievable, the characters too hard to like, and the writing too crass to hold my interest too long. That having been said, the book picked up sufficiently in the third act to pull itself out of a one star rating - if the whole book had had the third act's pacing and rhythm the book would have been a much better sell.

Maddy Braverman just wasn't a good protagonist. She was unlikable from the start, and it's difficult to believe that a borderline alcoholic, celebrity stalking, childishy petulant depressive woman would hold a job at the most prestigious elementary school in NYC. It's more difficult to believe that she would have held the job for six years and be considered the best teacher there, with parents clamoring for spots in her class. She may be great with the children overall, but as a reader I hardly saw it. She spent too much of her time in the class on the phone or lamenting about her situation and dashing off to the break room to be considered a valuable asset.

Her friendships were likewise a bit horrifying. It's one thing to be enamored with celebrity culture, it's a whole other thing to make the same mistake multiple times and gush about how celebrities have a golden "glow" about them. The cautionary tale of Star Craving Mad is largely lost when so much of the book is spent excusing horrible behavior, and even commending it in the case of the Halloween party. Illusions may be shattered by the end of the book, but the impact isn't that great overall.

Where the story succeeds is in the final act, as I've said before. The pacing changes, the focus of the story is torn away from celebrity culture and instead on character development that was badly needed throughout the whole book itself. With more attention to the characters, and less to what celebrity wore what, the book could do better. If more time was spent on character relationships than the reveals would be a bit more powerful. As it is, the characters are too self-absorbed to really come off as real, and the action is too choppy to flow naturally the way that it should. There's a decent chick-lit story in this, it just hasn't fully emerged just yet.

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### **Joan says**

This book was fun to read. It did delve into some soul-searching on the part of the main characters, and had a very satisfactory ending. The "star-struck" main character, (I have known people who were this "crazy" about a movie star) learns the hard way that actors are just people, some of whom are very skilled at acting in ALL areas of their life, which results in their living in their own "reality" with disregard for their effect on other people.

I would like to give this book a 3.5 rating.

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### **Mrs Mommy Booknerd <http://mrsmommybooknerd.blogspot.com> says**

How would you feel to have a peek into the lives of a celebrity family...maybe a bit Star Craving Mad???

This book was a fun escape from life and a light summer read. I thought the premise was interesting and I thought there was a lot of funny moments. This is one of those books that is fun to read with a friend, so you can share thoughts and "what-ifs" together! 4 stars

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### **Marcee Feddersen says**

<http://www.anurseandabook.com/2015/09...>

Okay, what can I say - I enjoyed reading this book. But when I finished, I had to think about what I consider the difference between a 3 star and a 4 star book.

Overall, I enjoyed the storyline. I love to follow celebrity gossip, so I could completely identify with Maddy's starstruck reaction to huge celebrities invading her everyday life.

I liked James and the supporting characters. I wish Maddy had been a little more engaging. Which brings me to the difference between 3 and 4 stars - I liked Maddy, but I was a little put off by some of the language. And I'm not a prude - but I guess I just don't want all the references to tampons being stuck and lost for

weeks, or wondering if you are sitting in some other girl's juices on a chair. Gross. Unnecessary. These type of descriptions didn't move the story forward at all, and made me not like Maddy as much.

I thought Shelby trying to steal her children's book was a great twist to the story. And I liked that it wasn't an easy fix.

So overall, I thought the story was a 4. But some of the grossness took away from my overall enjoyment of the book, so I would give it 3 stars.

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