



A Crowded Marriage

Catherine Alliott

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There are three people in Imogen Cameron's marriage – herself, her husband, Alex, and their son, Rufus – and that's just the way she likes it. But that's about to change...

When the Camerons hit dire financial straits they're forced to leave London and accept Eleanor Latimer's offer of a rent-free cottage on her country estate. Ordinarily, such an offer is not to be sniffed at but, as Eleanor happens to be Alex's beautiful, rich and frankly flirtatious ex, Imogen is very sniffy indeed.

And with good reason. Once installed in Shepherd's Cottage, Imogen's life is suddenly full to bursting with surly locals, psychotic chickens, a maddening (if handsome) headmaster, mountains of manure, visits from the infuriatingly bossy vet, and Eleanor, who seems to be glued to Alex's side.

As far as Imogen's concerned, two's a marriage, three's a family and this...well, this is just silly, someone's going to have to go. The question is who?

A Crowded Marriage Details

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From Reader Review A Crowded Marriage for online ebook

Samantha Ng says

The first time I read it I didn't like the slow start. Recently decided to give this book a second chance...wow! I got blown away by it. The story was about wife suspecting husband is having affair, moving from city to countryside, having to make new friends in the village. the fun starts when Imo's family moved to the countryside. I would definitely love another book from Catherine.

Obsidian says

DNF at page 201 of 468.

I picked up this and the last book I read a few months ago but never got around to reading. One of my resolutions is to get through the glossy pile of books I have not read yet on my shelves (there are a lot of them) so I started going through the pile. Frankly I want to kick myself since so far the books I bought are not that great to me.

I wish that I could get engrossed more in Imogen's story. However, from the parts I read, this character just seems to have built her husband up on a pedestal and excuses all of his faults which look to be legion to me at this point. When you find out the history of how Imogen and her husband got together I ended up losing a lot of sympathy for her since she is super naive.

The writing at times flows, and other times gets clunky. I think that since the author chose to slowly reveal things to the reader actually hurt a bit for this story since you go from feeling for Imogen, to thinking how dumb she is when you go back and see what happened in the past. Not going to lie, I totally skipped to the last two chapters to see if I had called where the book was going to end up when I finally decided to stop reading the book. I was correct on all of my assumptions.

Debbie Viggiano says

I adore all Catherine Alliott's books and even more so for the fact that, as a writer too (but not as successful as her!) it is so wonderful to see her also make mistakes that miss proof reading eyes.....a dog goosing in the crutch, eyes on storks, a cottage that has a dishwasher in one chapter but no dishwasher in another, a headmaster who is Mr Hunter in one sentence and Mr Harding in another.....fabulous! But it didn't matter, because Catherine Alliott weaved her magic and entertained me with a novel that I absolutely hated to put down (sadly sleep has to happen at some point though).

Imogen is married to Alex, a gorgeous older man who has been hitched before but parted company from his first wife when a mistress came along. Imogen is a little disconcerted that the now ex-mistress is still a good friend of her husband's. Indeed, just how much of a good friend is something that starts to severely rattle our heroine. And when the chips are down and confrontation calls.....well, I won't spoil it. But let's just say I was totally surprised at what happened next and absolutely loved the twist in the tale.

A highly recommended read.

Jill says

I found the main character Imogen to be rather silly. It started well and was entertaining but once they moved to the country the storyline "jumped the shark" not just once, but several times! I almost gave up on finishing. Even the end was totally stupid. I gave it 1 star for an amusing start and 1 star for finishing. Lots of other better reads out there. Don't waste your time on this one.

Nicki says

Read a few by Catherine Alliot and quite liked them, even though the characters always seem to be ridiculously stupid. I think Imogen was actually the dumbest so far. I cringed all through the vet stuff and I just had a feeling I knew where that was going too.

It was okay for light reading until half way through. Then Hannah's little surprise and Eleanor's similar news. Yuck, lost all interest and it was skating pretty close even before all that. Skimmed to the end at this point as I just wanted the book to end.

Ieva says

Eljota sav? žanr? ir ?oti popul?ra, bet nav ?sti san?cis ar vi?u "sadraudz?ties" (l?dz šim). Gr?matu kluba humora m?nesis š?ita piem?rots laiks dot rakstnieci iesp?ju. Tikai gr?matas vid? aptv?ru, ka š? ir t? gr?mata, kura pirms gadiem uz mani nek?du iespaidu neatst?ja.

Patieš?m neko neatcer?jos par galvenajiem varo?iem, pat ne viegls de ja vu nerad?s, bet m?sas sižeta l?nij? gan uzreiz atcer?jos, kas b?s.

Neteikšu, ka var?ju izsmieties, viet?m sapratu, ka joks, vien? viet? ?i?in?ju. Par kop?jo visp?r?jo pazušanu no atmi?as un nesasm?din?šanu t? zvaigzne nost. Ta?u dom?ju, ka k?dreiz v?l ko no Eljotas var?tu palas?t.

Olivia Chapé says

I picked this book up as I was looking for an author similar to Jane Green and was sorely disappointed.

This was the second time I gave up on this book. I thought I was only 20 pages in the first time round. However, after my second attempt, I realised that it was more like 120 pages in. I began to doubt myself thinking, "Did I finish this book?" I couldn't bare it any longer. I couldn't do it. I tried speed reading through it a little bit, but it wasn't happening. It simply would not give me the satisfaction I crave from a good book.

The characters were confusing. It may be because of the chosen names, but it appears that I was not the only one who was having problems with this issue after reading the reviews.

The story did not make me feel good, or even intrigued. Although the film, "Requim for a dream" is pretty

shocking, this story was somehow more depressing.

My poor experience of this book made me feel that I should avoid this author in the future, as this book gets a big thumbs down from me. I wish I could be nice, but that just ain't happening y'all!!!

Carole says

Have read 120 pages, and cannot read any more of this awful trashy book, which is an insult to people's intelligence. The characters are shallow, stupid, annoying, and the plot totally ridiculous. I probably shouldn't mark it as read, but surely I need some compensation for the few hours I've wasted on it. I'm glad I only spent 99p on it from a charity shop - it's going back. It's the first Catherine Alliott I've tried to read, and the last.

Angela says

Its been a long time since I've last given a book a perfect score but this book thoroughly deserves it. It starts with a woman named Imogen and her husband Alex who have a son called Rufus. They live in London and across the street from her is her best friend Kate. The economy tanking is the reason why they move out into the country into a cottage where Alex's friend and ex-girlfriend Eleanor owns. The plot moves on from there but in completely unexpected ways and even though things end a little rocky a happily ever after scenario for all the characters involved appear to be well on the way. All in all a really great story.

Tina says

I couldn't quite bring myself to rate this three stars. I liked some parts, but overall it just wasn't a very good story. It seemed like all of the married people were having affairs and it just got quite confusing after a while as to who was messing around with whom. Not a story I would recommend to others.

Rachel Brand says

I loved this book! Why did I ever stop reading Catherine Alliott novels? Wonderful escapism. The premise of this novel is often a typical format for chick-lit novels - happily married mother believes that her husband is having an affair with his ex - but nothing is exactly as it seems. Although the main character wasn't totally likeable to begin with, and could behave rather stupidly (obviously the way to stop some chav from bullying your kid is to invite him home for dinner, according to her!) but she grew and even her mistakes and character flaws were amusing. There were so many laugh-out-loud moments in this novel, and there was a lovely cast of amusing and intriguing secondary characters, such as Sheila, the woman who fostered over half a dozen kids and lived in a trailer, or the main character's father who is determined to annoy his ex-wife by dating younger and younger women. I liked the fact that the plot didn't go down the usual route, and that all of the characters either grew or revealed a secret about themselves. And of course, that this was a lovely, funny, light read. I'll definitely be reading more Catherine Alliott novels in the future! 9/10

Tania Easton says

I did not want it to endanother good read.

Bev Taylor says

a fantastic light red - 600 page of large paperback

there r 3 people in imogen's marriage - her husband and son. how she likes it - but it is about to change

they hit dire financial straits and r forced to leave london and live in a rent free cottage on her country estate. in exchange for looking after a few animals - not what a city girl has much knowledge about!

what has she let herself in for? surly locals, psychotic chickens, a maddening (if handsome) headmaster, mountains of manure, visits from an infuriatingly bossy vet and eleanor - who seems to be glued to her husband's side.

how will it end?

her son rufus is experienced beyond his years and helps to keep her feet on the ground to some extent but events can sometimes over ride everything

wonderful characters and prose. just 2 questions arose in my mind

did imogen not think to question whether eleanor's offer of the cottage came before or after she knew of their situation

why did she not pass on the vets bills to piers - after all they were his animals

enjoy!

bev

Anna says

Chick lit. Funny chick lit, but it would be nice if Alliot could move beyond the 'feisty woman with child(ren) moves to rich people country, almost has affair, is betrayed by man, finally gets together with object of her almost-affair.

Been a fan of hers for a while, but I won't be buying her next book unless I'm stuck at an airport and there is absolutely nothing else.

Ruth Ropper says

I had read this book a long time ago and on re-reading it was as good as the first time. I like Catherine Alliot's sense of humour through the book which at times makes you laugh out loud! I like the vulnerability of the main character although at times I wished she would just ask the difficult question or face up to the issues. But as with all of us it is easier to give advice to someone else. Sometimes there is a process to go through before we reach a stage in life we can deal with those difficult challenges. However I also loved the way she just got on with things or bumbled her way through situations she was unfamiliar with, definitely can relate to that one!

Would recommend this to anyone who likes a good laugh, a good read and lots of believable characters.
