



# A False Sense of Well Being

*Jeanne Braselton*

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**WINNER OF THE GEORGIA AUTHOR OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR FIRST NOVEL**

**“Braselton’s confident first novel is [a] depiction of love on the rocks in the New South that combines small town charm with major league angst. . . . A down-home Proustian *recherché* search . . . [An] entertaining, rueful account of an apparently ‘normal’ marriage.”**

*–Los Angeles Times*

**“Simply extraordinary. [This novel] has the wit and modern comedy of Nora Ephron and the literary force of Flannery O’Connor.”**

**–KAYE GIBBONS**

**Author of *Ellen Foster***

At thirty-eight, Jessie Maddox has a comfortable life in Glenville, Georgia, with the most responsible husband in the world. But after the storybook romance, “happily ever after” never came. Now Jessie is left to wonder: Why can’t she stop picturing herself as the perfect grieving widow? As Jessie dives headlong into her midlife crisis, she is joined by a colorful cast of eccentrics. There’s her best friend Donna, who is having a wild adulterous affair with a younger man; Wanda McNabb, the sweet-natured grandmother who is charged with killing her husband; Jessie’s younger sister Ellen, who was born to be a guest on *Jerry Springer*; their mother, who persistently crosses the dirty words out of library books; and of course the stuffed green headless duck. . . .

When a trip home to the small town of her childhood raises more questions than it answers, Jessie is forced to face the startling truth head-on—and confront the tragedy that has shadowed her heart and shaken her faith in love . . . and the future.

## A False Sense of Well Being Details

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Author : Jeanne Braselton

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## **From Reader Review A False Sense of Well Being for online ebook**

### **Allison Junkans says**

This book was dark, depressing, and a little weird. The main character is a 38 year old woman who is unhappy in her marriage and has fantasies of her husband dying. The side characters include a woman cheating on her husband, a woman who killed her husband, and another woman who is leaving her husband. With all that being said, I think this author has potential. This was her first book, but I think her writing is pretty good. Even with the weird and dark aspects, I was interested in what was going to happen and it was a quick read.

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### **Debbie says**

300 pages of mid-life crises. This woman has a nice home, a husband who loves her and a successful career yet she spends the entire book fantasizing about her husband's death. I found it tedious and trying most of the time but did find the sister somewhat entertaining. However, I really lost my mojo with the green stuffed duck - seriously.

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### **Rebecca says**

I think the cover of the book is not in keeping with the type of book it is. I think I got this in a bag of books that someone gave me and I put off reading it because I thought it was probably a frivolous book. It actually gets into some serious thinking about ways in which we all act out and the ways that our lives turn out isn't necessarily how we thought they would or should.

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### **Karol Sprague says**

Too much angst without enough explanation. Husband needed more filling out. And why pick a sleazy hotel?

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### **Robin says**

Fluffy, which is what I was looking for. Some reviews were harsh on her being whiny, but I didn't feel that way for once. I think a lot of us, in long-term partnerships, have had times we may wish our spouse fell off a cliff or was slightly maimed (& vice versa, to be sure!). It's often a sign that you need to work on things, & I think she was getting there...

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## **Sally Andrews says**

This is a debut novel? Where has she been hiding? I could eat this book with a spoon!

Tongue-in-cheek funny, introspective, sweet, and even heartbreaking at times, it was one of my favorites of 2018.

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## **treehugger says**

The writing was really really good, but the characters and the events of the story left a lot to be desired. One reviewer said it's like 300 pages of mid-life crises, and I'm inclined to agree - it just yammered on and on about how unsatisfied the main character was with her upper-middle class life in a meaningful profession with a husband that loves her. And her family dynamics were sad and strange as well.

All over the cover it is touted as "one of the best first novels ever", and while that may be true for some, this book did little for me.

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## **Angelica says**

So this woman is constantly thinking about what if her husband dies, and she is obviously very bored and dissatisfied with her marriage. I thought this book was a little slow, and I only finished it because I wanted to see how it would end (and I liked the ending!). I would have liked to have seen more in-depth of her relationship, it seemed to skim the surface, and less of her visit with her family. With the divorce rates as they are, this is certainly a good topic to address, however the book itself was a struggle to keep plowing through. The book was okay, but not great.

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## **H-Grace says**

A story of middle-aged ennui, set outside Atlanta and in a rural town right over the Alabama line - both places I've lived in my life. It ends hopeful, yet there's a through-line of "is this all there is to life" that I thankfully don't identify with.

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## **Jeanne says**

It took 100 pages of suburban tedium before this book lets you know what it is even about. Then I found it very depressing. I found myself reading faster and faster, trying to get it over with, because the unpleasant, rural family of the lead character (who has supposedly "escaped" her southern, small-town, Evangelical religion, and low-class background...but family is family, after all) could easily have been leading up to violence or suicide and I really wasn't in the mood. Yes, I admit it's probably a well-written book, a journey through acute depression, and mid-life crisis, and mourning - but I did not enjoy being on the journey with

this character. I am very glad this book is finished.

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### **Pam Thayer Klopfenstein says**

Did not finish. Boring

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### **Natalie says**

Yawn. The only thing that kept me reading was the writing was actually good and I had the small hope that something EXCITING would happen. It never did. The poor main character in her miserable/normal enough life but the whole thing ended in a dull, lackluster, totally un-climatic way! BORING BOOK with cardboard characters.

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### **Madam says**

A better title would be "A False Advertisement of Comedy." Although the dust cover described this as darkly funny, I found almost nothing about it laugh-provoking. It was just another tiresome woman searching for meaning in her life after suffering several setbacks, following a predictable path to the typical results. I don't feel like I lost brain cells to this book, but I didn't gain any either.

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### **Saleh MoonWalker says**

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### **Charlotte says**

This book had me hooked from the first line. Not the greatest book in the world, but I think any 40-something wife could relate to the main character's predicament! There are lines in this book that made me stop reading because they made me wonder how another person could be experiencing exactly the same feelings as me.

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