


Five Women

Rona Jaffe

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Five friends meet weekly at a restaurant called Yellowbird on New York's Upper East Side, revealing the long-hidden secrets of their pasts and how each, in her fashion, has become a survivor beyond all expectations. Texas-born Billie Redmond, the owner of Yellowbird, has come a long way from singing in her daddy's honky-tonk roadhouse. She escapes small town life for the glamour of New York City, where she can be a star like her idol Janis Joplin, and for a brief incandescent moment she lives her dream. But when the hits dry up, so do the high times, and Billie searches her soul to avoid the same fate as her idol. Beautiful, sexy, smart, and black, Felicity Johnson is a successful lawyer whose extramarital affair is part salvation, part invitation to disaster. It will take courage to finally escape from a loveless marriage but, she wonders, does she have the strength to break the self-destructive bond? Kathryn O'Mara Henry comes from a long line of Boston cops, including her hard-drinking father, who terrorizes the family. But one cold night her mother puts a violent end to the nightmare of abuse. From this hell, Kathryn develops into a vivacious and independent woman who finally finds a "good" man who can give her children the stability they need or scar them - and her - for life. Raised in Florida, Eve Bader is a free spirit who dreams of a career on the silver screen. She is so determined to make it as an actress in Hollywood that she forsakes her young daughter, Nicole, for a chance at stardom. Only when she starts a new life with her daughter in New York does she begin to prosper as an actress. But once again, her blind ambition threatens her relationship with her daughter, and friendship within the group. Gara Whiteman has worked hard to become a prominent psychologist, and after resolving her love/hate relationship with her controlling mother and a divorce from her husband of twenty-two years, she takes on the biggest struggle of her life - and is finally

Five Women Details

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From Reader Review Five Women for online ebook

Laurie D'ghent says

I think I could have really liked this book, but there was WAY too much profanity.

Tammy Downing says

Not the best book I've ever read. This story is about 5 women who are friends with horrible past lives.

Dana says

3.5 stars.

Michelle says

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Fiction

466 pages

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Once a week five women meet over dinner and drinks at the Yellowbird, their favorite Manhattan bar. To teh shared table they bring their troubled past, their hidden secrets. And through their friendship, each one will find a courageous new beginning.

Billie--the enigmatic owner of the Yellowbird and a single mother; her scar is a reminder of lost dreams and new foundhope

Gera--a successful psychologist, she lends her help to others but denies it to herself.

Felicity--the brilliant attorney, emotionally chained to one abusive man and obsessed with another.

Kathryn--the devil-may-care adventuress still running from a shattering act of violence.

Eve--the actress, a volcano of anger, whose blind ambition could ultimately destroy the group.

Margaret says

Five women who have left behind damaging and unfulfilling childhood and adult relationships that have left them ready to move on with their lives. Although they do not know each other in the beginning, they meet at a local bar/restaurant, The Yellow Bird, which is owned by one of the women. They form a loose knit group and continue to meet at the Yellow Bird as each search for the direction their lives will take them next. It is a little bit of a struggle to keep each of their stories straight in the beginning but things do sort themselves out in the end. You can't help but begin to root for each of them as they start their new journey.

Robbin says

Very quiet, suspenseful story about five very different women whose tragic childhoods segue into a brief friendship with each other. What I really enjoyed about this story is that the author used her characters to reveal varying degrees of the dysfunction in their families and how they're each affected by it as they try to cope with it in their adult lives.

Insightful, profound...this book runs the gamut of emotions. I'd read this again in a few years it's so good. Perhaps I enjoyed the end the best as there is no happy, Hollywood ending as the women's firendship circle cracks and breaks apart. But, that's okay. It reminded me that people come in and out of our lives for various reasons, and it's okay if they leave and don't come back sometimes. Life still goes on.

♥ Marlene♥ says

on Friday, April 16, 2004 I wrote on bookcrossing about this book:

Well I did enjoy reading this book. It is an easy read but nice to read about women my age or older. This is a perfect book to take with you if you need to relax.

I am looking for more books by Rona jaffe.

Chamie says

Read this years ago. I love Rona Jaffe and have never been disappointed by any of her books.

Colleen says

There are five women who come together weekly at a restaurant in New York City. You learn that each

woman is damaged; a result of awful childhoods and failed relationships with men. It is not a new theme in novels. In other novels the women help each other overcome their pasts by caring for each other, helping each other to value their individuality. Their combined strength gives strength to each woman in the group. However, in this novel the women do not reach out to each other. It is not even clear why they continue to gather.

Denise says

In this book you meet five women and learn about their lives from childhood to their mid to late fifties. They did not grow up together but met as adults in NYC. If you are like me, you will come to like some of the characters a lot and some not so much. By the end of the book I was ready for it to be over. I guess that is why I gave it a 3 star rating. It wasn't a book that I wanted to go on with the characters. If you are in your fifties and want to compare your life with the five women in the book, pick up a copy at your library. It doesn't seem like a book that you would want to own and reread at intervals.

But then again, that is just my opinion.

Nicole Stagg says

Not my favorite Rona Jaffe book. Well written but the stories of the women were way too sad.

Debby says

To date I've only read two books by Rona Jaffe, *Class Reunion* and now, *Five Women*. WOW! What a phenomenal storyteller! I could not put this book down.

In a nutshell, it's the life stories of five women who, later in life, become friends. They have a set date weekly for dinner/drinks at a local bar/restaurant in New York City that is owned by one of them. These five women are as different as night and day and yet, they have one thing in common, they are survivors of all that life has thrown their way!

Reading this book really made me appreciate the friends I have in my life who have and continue to keep me honest and living life to the fullest!

If you like well-written sagas with great characters, I highly recommend you check out Rona Jaffe's work.

Judith says

I probably would have enjoyed this book more if I had read it 15 years from now as I would have been similar in age to the main characters and having the same experiences, possibly. Still a decent read

Sarah says

Not the most comfortable reading, especially the explicit description of going through chemotherapy and having reconstructive surgery, but interesting nonetheless, seeing 5 different women's life experiences, what brought them to present, and what their hopes for the future are.

Muse Here says

This was given to me, by my good friend Beth. I read it quite some time ago, but I remember enjoying the story line and finding the characters real and relatable. It was fascinating reading about segments from each different life and how the women interacted alone and together. Enjoyable read.
