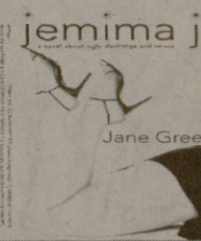


Book Review



Jemima J
By Jane Green
Broadway Books

Jane Green creates a modern Cinderella story in her third novel *Jemima J: A Novel About Ugly Ducklings and Swans*. Green introduces readers to the main character Jemima Jones, an overweight journalist who writes a column on household tips at a small town newspaper. She spends her days at work eating and daydreaming of the hunky news editor, Ben.

After a surge of motivation, she becomes determined to lose weight and reach her ideal size of 120 pounds. With the help of her friend, Geraldine, who resembles the thin and fashionable Wendy Malick (Nina VanHorn on the sitcom "Just Shoot Me"), Jemima attempts to achieve her goal and eventually finds herself lusted after by two men.

The plot is fast-paced and readers are taken into each character's thoughts and actions as Green occasionally drops into the novel as the narrator. The novel also provides a wonderful point of view of an overweight person, as readers learn of Jemima's struggles to resist food and shrug off her two evil (and bone-skinny) roommates' discouraging comments and actions.

Jemima Jones easily enters readers' hearts and readers find themselves cheering Jemima on as she works off her weight and finds true love.

Cosmopolitan described *Jemima J* as "the kind of novel you'll gobble up at a single sitting." Readers will find that the 373 pages have ended too soon. (Grade: A)



Nine Lives
By Lynn Snowden
W.W. Norton and Company

Lynn Snowden (Snowden-Pickett) provides an insightful account of the American workplace. After taking nine different jobs within a year, she takes readers into the life of a schoolteacher, a stripper, a cocktail waitress, and a pyrotechnician, to name a few.

As a pyrotechnician for Skid Row, she dives and hangs out with lead singer Sebastian Bach and as a publicist, ends up on "Entertainment Tonight Television" as Brian Austin Green's ("Beverly Hills 90210") escort.

Snowden describes her routine of mulling over songs and costume ideas while spending enormous amounts of time at a gym, preparing for her role as a stripper. She learns a bit about the male psyche and how most consider a stripper dumb, a prostitute or a high school dropout.

Snowden also writes how low and childlike men become at a strip club.

"Most men are even more subdued during a table dance ... they generally sit back politely and watch with the expression of a four-year-old watching Barney the dinosaur," Snowden writes. While the book is mostly filled with Snowden's comic thoughts, readers are taken through chapters in which Snowden works as a real counselor in Austin and learns the sick patterns of males who constantly rape their close friends, and the girls who have been raped so often they tell their stories in a nonchalant manner.

Snowden, a freelance journalist has written for Esquire, Vanity Fair, Cosmopolitan and Rolling Stone. Her experience in writing complements her experiences in nine different professions which makes *Nine Lives* an enjoyable read. (Grade: A)

Reviews by Lizette Resendez



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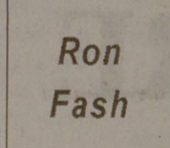
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