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Not Exactly Love: A Memoir



Synopsis

It was 1969, and all the rules were changing, when Betty, a woefully single French teacher on Long Island, met the handsome but edgy new teacher at her school, a hippie just back from Woodstock. His vitality opened up a new world to herâ”but when they married, his rages turned against her, and often ended with physical violence. Like millions of women who discover theyâ”ve married an abusive man, Betty was forced to make daily decisionsâ”to suppress her feelings or risk confrontation, to keep it secret or report, and ultimately, to live with it or leave. Part memoir, part warm-hearted look at the â”70s, and part therapeutic journey, *Not Exactly Love: A Memoir* is an intense and inspirational story of a woman who grew from her experience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My ex husband recently passed away. I was surprised how much it affected me. I thought I would only feel joy at the news. There was no joy. I may felt sad that I lost so much of myself in that marriage, as Betty did. For years I threw myself into my next marriage, and protecting my daughter

from her father. It was cathartic reading Betty's story, knowing I wasn't the only outwardly strong woman trapped for years in what wasn't exactly love.

This outstanding book shows the complexity of a violent marriage from the inside. It's worth reading by anyone who works with women in abusive relationships, any woman who wonders why she's putting up with being hurt, or any woman who still feels guilty that she left. The book is especially valuable because it shows the internal world of a well educated, middle class woman who does not fit the stereotype of the domestic violence "victim." Hafner masterfully depicts the slow descent and the dismantling of confidence that makes the ongoing and ever-increasing abuse possible. This book should be on the shelf of every shelter.

I enjoyed reading this poignant and courageous memoir of a bright, sensitive young woman who literally stumbled down the stairs into a bad marriage. Betty delicately juxtaposes her feelings of sadness, disappointment, and despair with a persistent expression of hope and emerging self-confidence. In that sense hers is a story about the challenge of maintaining one's dignity and self-worth in the face of unrelenting negativity and violence. Although Betty's story ends well, it is apparent just how easily it could have ended tragically, as have similar tales of other women. I particularly like the way Betty captured the flavor of life in the late 1960's and early 1970's, which brought back many memories. Although those were different times in many ways, one thing has not changed: some men still treat women horribly. Read the book to learn how that feels and how to survive.

Not Exactly Love is the story of a woman who overcame a horrible relationship to find her happy ending. It's 1969 on Long Island, NY, a single French teacher Betty, meets a handsome but edgy new teacher at school by the name of "Jack". As Betty falls for him, she soon discovers that he isn't what he seems but she still marries him knowing what he is. With the years passing by and nothing is getting better, only worse. Betty is forced to make the ultimate decision before something truly bad happens to only find her happy ending! This book hit home for me because my bio dad was exactly the same as "Jack" until my mom had to make that ultimate decision to get myself and her out of that situation. Every time I read a book like this one, all I can think about is the ones that didn't escape in time from a person that looks so normal on the outside but so evil on the inside. This is a must read for anyone who is living or lived through something like this or knows someone who might be in a situation like this, who knows it just might give them the courage to want to do something

about it. Thank You to Betty Hafner for sharing your story and for being one of the lucky ones that made it to the other side to find true happiness! I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book from the Author!

From the beginning, *Not Exactly Love* is the page turner well-seasoned novelists aspire to. And yet, the stakes are so much greater. Betty Hafner shares decades old memories that many struggle with today, and does so honestly, intimately, with dignity and encouragement. If their connection wasn't exactly love, Hafner manages to give weight to the positive as well as the negative interactions of an abusive relationship, and does so with intelligence, courage and, yes, love. This is a should read for every woman suffering spousal abuse, and every single looking for Mr. Right.

Truth is always better than fiction - and so is this memoir about the complexity of being in a relationship that is simultaneously fun and enjoyable - and devastatingly abusive and frightening. Without psychoanalyzing every situation and resorting to easy "pop culture" statements - Betty describes the feelings, confusion, disbelief that comes when a relationship isn't what you thought it would be. She has the courage to lay bare her own foibles so that there is no feeling of heavy-handedness. The benefit of therapy is evident as she examines her own upbringing as well as her husband's and how that plays into how both act out their lives, and to how she can construct a more promising future for herself. And at the end she also reinforces the need we all have for supportive and caring friends to help us through the toughest of times. All young women should read this!

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Powerboat Handling Illustrated: How to Make Your Boat Do Exactly What You Want It to Do (International Marine-RMP)
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