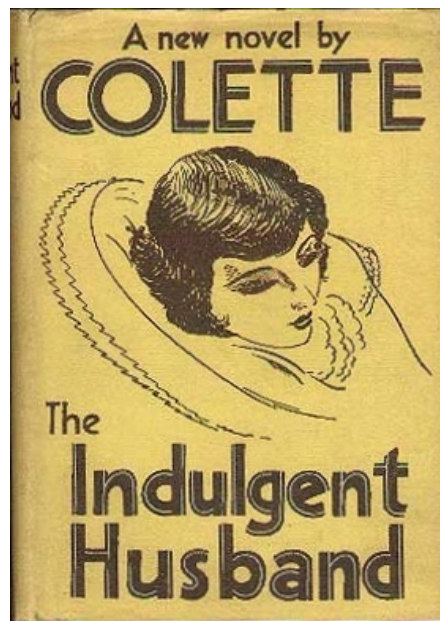




The Indulgent Husband

Colette

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Following the excitement of a shared life in Paris, Claudine's marriage to the distinguished Renaud has settled into a stale pattern of bickering conversations and mutual inattention. Just as Claudine begins to fear herself confined to a stifled existence, a chance meeting with a friend's wife, the beautiful Rezi, draws her into an impassioned and heartbreaking affair.

The Indulgent Husband Details

Date : Published 1935 by Farrar & Rinehart (first published 1902)

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Author : Colette

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Genre : Fiction, Cultural, France, Lgbt, Classics, Romance, European Literature, French Literature

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From Reader Review The Indulgent Husband for online ebook

Bonnie says

Claudine Married is my favorite of the Claudine series so far. She has developed into an adult and has started to realize that instead of an uneven relationship, in which one partner controls and another is subservient and often abused, she needs more. Part of the joy and agony of this story is that she is honest with herself in seeing that she doesn't know what she wants. Her mind is pretty confusing, but it's not always easy for anyone to define what they need and what they're missing. I also love her relationship with nature and the countryside. Her descriptions are lavish but not long-winded and Walt Whitman-y. I look forward to reading Claudine and Annie after this, in the hopes of seeing Claudine find someone she understands and respects, and who understands and respects her.

knig says

'Claudine Married' is part of a series but perfectly sensible as a stand-alone. Set out in exquisite tones, this tale of 'en menage' devolves quickly into an intense ménage à trois, as Claudine, her husband Renaud and a beautiful woman aristocrat Rezi embark on a series of intimate, intertwined and intricate liaisons.

Colette is marvellous in exploring the Sapphic bond between Claudine and Rezi in dulcet, dreamy hues, as the two women give in to their senses with such delicacy of perception that their physical ecstasy is redolent of poetry, a whispered fantasy where each breath becomes a thousand sighs.

The two women are locked in a seraphic design of intricate pattern, enabled by Renaud's conscious complicity in facilitating their rendezvous. If anything, he is titillated by their illicit moments: like a promise on a summer's sigh, moments like tubers questing in the sensual rhythm of desire.

Claudine, though, is not content. The colours of suspicion and jealousy shower the hubris of her flinching disposition and crochets her sense of morality to a withered husk, not least because she eventually discovers Renaud, in taut sinew and corded tension, strumming Rezi's tightly puckered flesh and so yielding its blossom.

Running back to the country side from where she hails, Claudine sets about to make sense of it all. Her final verdict? She shall remain in the country where Renaud may visit her when he chooses. Her only request: that he scold her, so that she may feel frightened of him.

What is wrong with that woman?

Mel says

Claudine married sees Miss Claudine once again filled with self-doubt. After travelling for a couple years with her husband, and visiting the countryside once again she settles in Paris and is rather discontented with her marriage. She finds herself falling in love with the beautiful Rezi, who is also in love with her back. It's a very sweet romance, and the two being young turn of the century women find themselves at great difficulty finding anywhere to get together, so enlist the help of Claudine's husband to secure themselves a room. It's

probably the most drama ridden of the Claudine stories and feels quite honest, up until the end. I found the ending to be very dissatisfactory (in fact it felt like Collette apologised for it in a paragraph in Claudine and Annie as the literary ending even though it wouldn't be the popular one). Even with the forced ending and the sudden shift in characterisation I think this is one of the most lovely novels I've read in a long time. To read a story about a queer/bi woman that is written so openly and honestly at this time is such an amazement. The conversation when she discusses with her husband his hypocrisy in encouraging her relationship with Rezi while condemning his own son for his homosexuality is great.

Sharon Terry says

I loved this book, except for the copout ending.

Claudine is now married, but admits to feeling restless and dissatisfied. At one of her husband's "at home" days, she meets and becomes fascinated with the ultra-feminine Rezi, the wife of a Colonel Lambrook, who has left his soul in India and seems like a walking carcass. Claudine and Rezi embark on a passionate affair, with the voyeuristic cooperation of Claudine's husband Renaud, who even sources an apartment where they can meet and indulge themselves. However, Claudine never quite trusts Rezi and, when she discovers that Renaud has also been enjoying her favours, she leaves them both. One feels it is only temporary, however, as Claudine is really in love with her husband and Rezi may be captivating, but is actually quite shallow. Claudine Married is really only about an episode in Claudine's married life - about a kind of obsession. She admits she is not in love with Rezi, but can't stop seeing her.

Colette's casual acceptance of bisexuality is surprising, especially considering the book was first published in 1902. The reviewer Peter Green is quoted on the back jacket: "The Well of Loneliness looks reassuringly English by comparison". The Well wasn't published until 1928 and is nowhere near as frank as Claudine Married - yet it was considered "obscene" and banned in England until 1949 - things were very different in France! Of course Colette's husband, the notorious Henri Gauthier-Villars, known as "Willy", was behind the Claudine books and egged her on to spice them up.

I would have liked a bit more development of other relationships in an account of Claudine's married life, particularly her friendship with Renaud's gay son. Either that or call the novel "Claudine and Rezi"!

Geoff Wooldridge says

Claudine Married (1902) is the third in Colette's early series about a young French girl, which is based loosely on her own experiences.

Following Claudine at School and Claudine In Paris, the young ingénue is now married to the older but devoted Renaud. Following a long honeymoon around Europe, the married couple return to France to settle into married life. After a short visit to Claudine's home town and school in Montigny, they take up residence in Paris.

To Claudine, Renaud is a combination of father figure, lover and husband, and Claudine would have preferred him to remain a lover than husband. But Renaud is devoted to his little Claudine.

Renaud is worldly, wealthy and has a wide range of contacts, and at one of his regular parties, Claudine is introduced to her married female neighbour, Rezi.

An immediate and powerful mutual fascination develops between these young and beautiful women, the sleek and pale blonde Rezi, and the lithe, nutty brown Claudine with her short and curly dark hair. But the morally cautious and uncertain Claudine resists, for a while at least, what must be inevitable.

Renaud, far from being jealous, encourages and even materially assists the liaison between the two women. This peculiar ménage à trois brings joy, love and mutual satisfaction to all participants, until a betrayal destroys the idyll.

The story is written by Colette from Claudine's perspective with the usual cosy charm and joie de vivre that is apparent in the whole series. The underlying latent eroticism with its hints of forbidden love is ramped to another level in this instalment. The passion and the sexual congress is raised completely to the surface here, although it is never graphic or smutty.

This is not even vaguely close to being porn, but it is brave to have written so openly about homosexual love, both female and male, in this era. The British didn't come to this level of openness more many years to come.

I rated this novel just ever so slightly below its predecessors, just because I think I preferred having that sexual tension just below the surface rather than it being more apparent. But that is a mere personal quibble, and others may prefer the more adult Claudine over the tentative teenage girl.

Courtney says

Colette
The Complete Claudine

In compilation only.

Trish says

great writing still but plot involves some 'creepy' passages involving girls below 15 and her husband 40+. social norms have changed! thank goodness I might add.

Dvora says

Oooo la la!

Nose in a book (Kate) says

Not as charming as the earlier Claudine books, though still entertaining.

My full review: <http://www.noseinabook.co.uk/?p=2366>

Lobo says

Nie spodziewałam się, że Małżeństwo Klaudyny będzie moją ulubioną częścią serii. A jednak jest najzabawniejsza, najbardziej ironiczna, iskrząca dowcipem, daje równie dobry wgląd w życie wewnętrzne Klaudyny, co pierwszy tom, dzięki czemu możemy te przekonania, jak bardzo bohaterka się zmienia, jak dojrzała, kim zdecydowała się być.

Nie będzie ukrywać, że ta niezdarna poliamoria w związku, jak zarysowano w małżeństwie Klaudyny i Renauda nie pozostaje bez wpływu na moją ocenę. Stanowczo za małżeństwa poliamorii w powieściach, w kulturze, w życiu, Klaudyna na honorów patronkę poliamorycznych związków.

Niezwykle irytująca była znamienita hipokryzja Renauda, który w związku Klaudyny i Rezi widzi coś pozytywnego (że już nie wspomnę o tym, że jego zdaniem kobiety powinny być z kobietami, aby bardziej kochały mężczyźni, bo przez to zdanie niemal nie dostałam wylewu z czystego wkurwu, jaki mnie zalał), a własnego syna uważa za zwyrodniałego sodomit. I stanowczo za małżeństwa Marcela w ich życiu rodzinnym. Podejrzewam, że miał ciekawsze rzeczy do roboty, kiedy Klaudyna pielęgnowała swoje ognisko rodzinne. Szkoda, bo on mógłby tam narozrabiać nie mniej niż Rezi.

Czyżby jest pisał o tym tomie bez zdradzania szczegółów. Atmosfera jest lekka i przytulna, można zrozumieć, czemu paryska socjeta postrzegała związek Renauda i Klaudyny jako ekscentryczny. Za dobrze im ze sobą było. Jakie małżeństwo może to o sobie powiedzieć?

patrycja polczyk says

I'd give this book 1,5 star. I didn't like it really, it was bit of a waste of time to reading it. And I think it should have been called "Claudine and Rezi"... Most of the book was about how they love each other. Or not. I enjoyed chapter somewhere around the end of the book, when Claudine talked about things other than love. I enjoyed previous books about Claudine more, especially the first one. That one annoyed me mostly.

Lora says

At the time I noted that I didn't particularly enjoy the book but needed to find out what ultimately happened to Claudine.

Andrea Quinlan says

I love Colette's Claudine series and this one in particular. Claudine's relationships with both Renaud and Rezi are beautifully drawn.

emm says

I loved this, like I do all of Colette's work, even the things I have't read yet! "Claudine Married" is about a young woman married to an older man whose relationship I'll describe as father-daughter with a romantic

twist. The wife enters into an emotional affair with someone else and the husband gets involved turning the affair into a pseudo- scandalous threesome. A great read. A QUICK read, mostly because I had the hardest time putting the book down.

Next stop: "Gigi; Julie de Carneilhan; Chance Acquaintances"

Alicia says

A review I read called this good, and readable - but not a great book. I tend to agree. It's odd and provocative but slightly irritating.

secondwomn says

colette's whimsy is enchanting. claudine is at her best when courting another women, so the introduction of rezi is a charming turn for the series. good in-between-serious-books or late-night-having-a-glass-of-wine reading. or both.

VeganMedusa says

Left in a motel room in Timaru, to counteract the Barry Crump books.

Zen Cho says

This was super trashy. Aw yeah! I picked it up pretty much only because the back cover had a quote from a British newspaper: "The Well of Loneliness looks reassuringly English in comparison." It is a book that is hilariously French as other people think of the French. And like The Well of Loneliness, there are issues with the reinforcing of heterosexuality as the only true sexuality. Bah.

Debore says

I did very much enjoy this book, I know its the time talking and it was very brave of Colette to write about lesbianism at all, but lesbianism is seen here as by the husband- as an entirely sexual endeavor which doesn't count as cheating, he becomes excited at the prospect of the two ladies entwined. By the main character it is a surreal thing, she becomes initially ill at the thought of it before succumbing entirely yet believing she is not in love and still she calls Rezi her mistress. But throughout the only character with any sexual sincerity is Rezi- and she is written here as a predator, who eventually needs Claudines husband to fulfill her sexual fantasies in a twist that really makes little sense, then Rezi is cast aside, never written about again, and Claudines husband is forgiven entirely.

It was very beautifully written, a lot of references to cats and feline behavior which I adored but I wish it could have been written later.

