



A Year of Being Single

Fiona Collins

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BEST FRIENDS IMOGEN, FRANKIE AND GRACE DECIDE TO TEST WHETHER THE GRASS REALLY IS GREENER ON THE SINGLE SIDE OF THE FENCE...

IMOGEN is supposed to be on the most romantic weekend of her life and instead she's quickly realised that her current boyfriend definitely isn't 'The One' and actually One Big Mistake.

FRANKIE is fed up. Fed up of her good-for-nothing husband and her four, unappreciative children. Well, they hardly notice her anyway, maybe it's time to shake it up a little...

GRACE thought she had the perfect life. Gorgeous little boy and perfect, hardworking husband. Or rather, she did, until she realised her husband was shagging his 'work'.

It's time for a change – and to ditch the men who are dragging them down! It's time for A Year of Being Single. Swearing off men, these single ladies don't need to put a ring on it...right?

Perfect for fans of Jane Costello, Helen Fielding and Fiona Gibson, A Year of Being Single is the laugh-out-loud debut that everyone's talking about!

A Year of Being Single Details

Date : Published April 21st 2016 by Carina

ISBN :

Author : Fiona Collins

Format : Kindle Edition 260 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review A Year of Being Single for online ebook

Missie says

A Year of Being Single is a glimpse into friendship, love, and heartbreak that comes from living life to the fullest. We all have the our "go to friend", the friend who helps survive hard times and celebrate the best time. Grace, Imogene, and Frankie are friends who for different reasons find themselves single after being involved in a relationship or marriage. They make a pact to swear off men for a year, to be single for a year. A year to be free to do whatever, whenever to grow, and proving they do not need anyone but each other. BUT! This is just like the age old problem, you know the one, the day of your haircut appointment your hair looks fabulous! The characters are likeable and relatable! I could find some of me in each one. I am a huge fan of anything set in Paris and dream of visiting. Bonus points!

A very entertaining story that will leave you feeling like you have made new friends as you learn living single isn't easy when your heart is in control.

More please!

Kathleen Gray says

Light, entertaining, well done chick lit- good for a dreary day or, for that matter, outside on a sunny day. You'll enjoy these women. Nicely drawn characters and good writing made this one a thumbs up! Good debut novel; I'll definitely look for more from Collins. Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC.

Sharon May says

Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the opportunity to read and review this book!

This is a perfect book to grab and take to the beach, or just sit and read and wish you were at the beach!

Three close friends and neighbors decide to make a pact to swear off men for a year. Imogene keeps picking the wrong men; Grace's husband had an affair; Frankie couldn't take her messy life with her husband and 4 kids for one more minute. What follows is just a fun story of each friend somehow breaking their pact. A reminder that the grass isn't always greener!

A fun summer read in the vein of Diary of Bridget Jones. There's something about the English vernacular that makes these books even better!

Rosa Temple says

Well this book began with great promise. I smiled a lot for the first few pages because I was really getting into the story, the characters and the way the plot was unfolding. But about a third of the way through I became bored. The same thing that happened to one character happened to the others and I was, by then, quite fed up by the predictability of it all. But not only that, there seemed to be a shift in what I thought was

quite intelligent writing to something a bit more pedestrian and a bit too typical of this genre. I kinda yawned, thinking, 'I've heard it all before'. And so I began to skim through loads of pages and eventually gave up ...

BUT, I decided to go back in a week or so later and give the book another go. It claimed to be 'laugh out loud' and so far had failed to make me giggle quietly. Then something happened. It was as if the writer of the first few pages was back! Towards the end the story really began to flow. At on stage I ditched my work, put my feet up and just read and read. I really wanted to know what happened to these women, all of a sudden I was caring about them again.

Thank goodness for a neat little twist at the end - it made me smile.

One of the things that put me off initially was Fiona Collins' reference to the play 'Abigail's Party' in which she made a glaring error when mentioning it and, as it is one of my favourites, I lost faith in the writer.

On the whole I think a lot of readers will really enjoy this - remember this is personal opinion so don't let me stop you at least trying it for yourself.

Jody says

Review first posted on my blog 'A Spoonful of Happy Endings': <http://spoonfulofhappyendings.blogspot...>

Frankie, Imogen and Grace are the best of friends who happen to have one thing in common with each other; they are fed up with the men in their lives. Frankie is sick and tired of continually cleaning up after her husband and four kids, so she decides it's time to throw him out of the house. Imogen is dating another big mistake, one in a row of many, and decides she might be better off alone. Grace unexpectedly finds herself alone as well after she catches her husband James cheating on her. The three women decide it's time to stay single for an entire year; no more man problems and just the focus on themselves for a change. But a year can be quite long; question is, can Imogen, Frankie and Grace really stick to their pact or will it be a bigger challenge than they expected...?

'A Year of Being Single' is a fun and enjoyable chick lit read and a promising debut novel by new author Fiona Collins. The book is told from the points of view of three different female characters, Imogen, Frankie and Grace, who all decide to spend a year without men. Each of the women has her own interesting and captivating story to tell and I specifically enjoyed how different the women were, each of them with her own personality and own ideas of what she wants from the men in her life. If I have to pick one favourite character it's probably Grace; she really develops throughout the story and I really liked what the author decided to do with her storyline.

I was a bit surprised by some elements of the ending of the book; not everything I'd hoped for happened, but that is not necessarily a bad thing, of course. The novel is quite a quick read with around 260 pages and chapters of a good length; not too long and not too short. I really enjoyed Fiona Collins' debut and think it's a promising start to her author career; I look forward to seeing what she comes up with next next! Overall, 'A Year of Being Single' is a thoroughly enjoyable, light-hearted and fun read I can recommend to any women's fiction or chick lit fan looking for their next read, and another great read by publisher Carina UK!

Sam says

This book is brilliantly funny and had me laughing out loud many, many times. Although I don't normally read boy-meets-girl chick lit, this is a cut above and has women I can identify with. These are women in their thirties and forties who have all had enough of their own situations. Frankie is taken for granted by her husband and family. Imogen tries and fails to make her appalling date The One, before giving up on men completely, and poor perfect Grace gets cheated on by her husband.

They all make a joint vow to stay away from men for a whole year, believing it will be ridiculously easy to keep (after far too much wine, that is). But each one finds temptation in their way and that's when the secrets start.

All the women are well written and well rounded characters. They are also likable, which goes a long way towards making the story enjoyable. What really sets this book apart though, is the humour. From the man who strokes his belly "like it was a puppy", to the drunken accidental "BAGA 4" routine, I was laughing out loud like I hadn't done in ages. I hope Fiona Collins writes more, because she is really good at this.

Sally says

Three friends realise on the same day that their relationships are not healthy and they need to change them. Imogen decides that the three of them should swear off men for a year and enjoy being single. At this point I thought it was obvious what would happen – all of them would meet someone and they would not last a year as singletons. How wrong was I! The author cleverly added a few twists and although there were men involved it was not at all a predictable ending. I was very pleased with the outcome and this really lifted the book into something a little out of the ordinary. I also enjoyed the fact that although this book could be categorised as “chicklit” the characters were older than usual and still feisty and strong women.

Rachel Gilbey says

Three best friends all living in the same street, all on the same day let out silent screams and realise they need to change their current circumstances. Imogen realises that she needs to get rid of the current man she is dating as he is repulsive. Frankie is mum to four kids, plus her husband who by the sounds of it is more of a child than the others. She realises the only way she will ever get appreciated or some alone time is to kick Rob out. And then there is Grace, who has just discovered her husband James is cheating on her.

When the three friends get together the next day they decide between them to all be single for a year, and swear off all contact with any men completely. Of course things never go exactly according to plan and you end up with a fabulous mix of the friends lying to each other, as they realise it's harder than it seems to stay single for a year!

A Year of Being Single is a fabulously entertaining story, alternating between the three friends' points of view. All three of the friends' stories are very different, and it was a pleasure getting to know the ladies. Imogen's colleague sounded a bit nuts, Grace had a different way of dealing with a plus one invite now that

she was single and Frankie took up a new hobby and found herself realising that she needs to be careful what she wishes for.

This is an enjoyable debut novel from Fiona Collins, and one that I found to be a light-hearted piece of chick lit, perfect for cheering up a drab weekend. It was easy to read, and I feel that it would be quite easy to dip in and out of. The writing is amusing and there are some fairly memorable scenes.

I did feel slightly let down by the conclusion, and felt that various conversations towards the end should have been bigger and more impactful. There are though some gorgeous men and a few good romantic gestures in the story to make up for it!

As someone who is chronically single, I still feel happy being single after reading this, but appreciate it's not a condition that most ladies can deal with for a whole year!

Thanks to Netgalley and Carina for this review copy. This was my honest opinion.

Mary Torjussen says

I was lucky enough to read a preview copy of A YEAR OF BEING SINGLE and read it in one sitting.

I loved this book - it was a brilliant read. The author, Fiona Collins, is so funny and there were many, many times when I laughed out loud. I identified with each of the three main characters and loved the way their stories were threaded through the book. I fell completely in love with Richard - I knew Imogen wouldn't be able to resist him! Who could?! He reminded me of Mr Big in Sex and the City and of Tom Selleck in Friends, too. I loved the repartee between Imogen and Richard - it was very witty and I loved the references to films and songs throughout the book, but particularly in their chapters.

This book's out on Thursday - buy a copy, switch off the phone, curl up on the sofa and have a lovely night with A Year of Being Single.

Marisa says

When it comes to fiction, I look for books that involve me completely —whether it's because of the beautiful writing, the power of the story, or the characters, and in a perfect book it's all three. So by the time I got to the end, I knew I'd just read a novel that mixed all the elements for the good chick lit..

I'd like to thank Netgalley and the publisher for the ARC in return for an honest review.

Grass monster says

A Year of Being Single is about 3 best friends, Imogen, Frankie and Grace. Having had enough of men they all decide to stay single just for a year!.

Imogen knows that she needs to get rid of her current boyfriend as he is gross, lazy and selfish. Frankie has children, and a husband who acts like more of a child than the others. She decides it's time to tell Rob to leave as she will never be appreciated.. And lastly we have Grace, who has just found out her wonderful

husband James, has been cheating on her.

They figure they have each other and that's all they need. They write up a contract and shake hands to stay away from all contact with men. They are not to let any men into their lives as they don't need them.

This has a great cover and an even better blurb, and I like that it was about 3 different people, so we got to know each person individually. For me I did think the title was a bit misleading. I thought they would all stay single and we would follow them on a journey without men, having some fun and getting up to mischief and it would show us we don't always need a man in our lives. But as you get into the story, things are very different and I found myself at times saying.. Really?!. Where's the sisterhood of singledom!.

I did enjoy this but felt it lacked a bit of oomph in parts. Would like to read more from Fiona in the future.

Elizabeth Davies says

I loved this book! It's a laugh-out-loud read, the author's style is easy and engaging, and the premise is intriguing. Great for curling up on the sofa on a rainy day, or one of your holiday reads on the beach.

I really do hope to see more from Ms Collins.

Kaisha (The Writing Garnet) says

All reviews can be found on my blog at <https://thewritinggarnet.wordpress.com>

I'll be honest, as soon as I saw the title I thought to myself, 'how hard can it be, being single for a year?', after all, I have been single for OVER a year and I am owning that shizzmanizzle. However, I'm not Imogen, Frankie OR Grace. Three very different women with one main thing in common; they all have been surrounded by scumbag, male partners. A cheater, a lazy good for nothing and a 'we are never, ever, getting back together' type. To be honest, looking at the summary of the three men, you can see why the ladies think that the single will be for them!

Will all three ladies channel their inner Beyoncé and become 'ALL THE SINGLE LADIES, PUT YOUR HANDS UP'? Will they keep to their agreement and stay away from 'what a man, what a man, what a might good man'? Only time will tell....

My first thoughts of Frankie's lifestyle and her husband actually made me grit my teeth. I was surprised she put up with it for as long as she did as I got angry just by reading about it. Sheeeesh. That said, I found her far easier to gel with than the other two women. For me, Frankie came across more real and the most relatable character. I'm not saying that I disliked the other two characters, not at all, it just took me longer to warm up to their personalities.

Like many other reviewers, I thought that they would stay single for a whole year and reinstate the GIRL POWER. But, halfway through the book, I had absolutely no idea which way the storyline was headed. A few of the ladies' choices left a lot to be desired and spoke volumes about their dedication to the infamous girl code. I mean, what did they expect living on the same street as each other, and all of them being as nosy as Norris Cole in Coronation Street!

TWG's verdict? A refreshing take on the 'typical' chick lit storylines, with plenty of giggles thrown in for good measure. I enjoyed the bizarre choices in both men and lifestyles and the whole book kept me entertained the whole way through. A truly fabulous light read, perfect to cosy up with as the nights draw in.

Ana says

Originally posted on This Chick Reads

Copy provided by publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

'A Year of Being Single' is Fiona Collins' debut and a book I've been excited to read ever since I saw the gorgeous, colourful cover. (Yes, I'm a sucker for a beautiful cover, I admit that). As this is debut, I approached the book with as little expectations as I could, as I really hate it when a book disappoints me. However, I was excited, I can't hide that. I absolutely love books about BFFs, and women wanting to reinvent themselves. The premise of the book promised it all, three women (in their 30-40s), all unappreciated by men, are making a pact to be single for a year. Loved the sound of this!

Imogen is very disappointed with her last relationship, and she seems like a magnet for all the wrong types of men. She's got her career, though she's experiencing slight changes on that field too, and despite being in her 40s and dating a lot of men, she still hasn't found the one. She can't be the problem, as she's intelligent, good looking, she's a good friend...but somehow, men don't see that. After her last repulsive boyfriend and a major let down, she decides it's time to stop looking for the one. Hell, she won't even date, she'll be fine all by herself.

Frankie is finally fed up of her husband and the mad house they call their home. Mother of four (actually 5 if you count her husband too, as he seems to be the biggest child of them all) she needs a break. She desperately needs a quiet house where she could listen to her own thoughts, and she needs to teach them all a lesson. She does everything for them, countless hours in the kitchen, laundry, cleaning etc. But no one, especially not her husband Rob, seem to appreciate it. After a night of cooling down, she decides it's time she and Rob had a break. She doesn't need a man, especially if that man is Rob who can't even pick up stuff after himself, let alone take care of her.

Grace has just found out her life is not as perfect as she thought. Her world comes tumbling down when she finds out her husband was having an affair at work. She decides it's time to say goodbye to her cheating husband and say hello to singledom. Being single again, it can't be that bad, right?

You know what they say, the grass is NOT always greener on the other side ...

Imogen, Frankie and Grace decide it's time to make radical changes in their lives and vow not to date, or even be attracted to any man for a year. They are all they need, they have their friendship, they'll support each other. Easy peasy, right? Well, it definitely will be a challenging time for them and they'll learn a lot about themselves.

'A Year of Being Single' was an interesting and very easy read. After a long working day, this book will definitely take your mind off your problems. However, after reading 20% of it, I expected more. The book certainly got better after the first third of it, I guess it took me some time to get to know the women and understand their reasons for the radical and dramatic change. While the story is light hearted, I expected more humour. Though I could connect to Imogen's ambition, Frankie's break downs (having two children of my own), I can't say I fully connected to these characters. I saw some sides of their personality I could relate, but unfortunately that wasn't sufficient to convince me in their mission. As I said, if there was more humour in the book, things would have seem better.

Overall, it was a very fast read and if you're a fan of chick lit, I assume you'll be checking it out. I know we'll certainly see more of Fiona Collins in the future and I'm looking forward to her next books.

Sky says

A year of being single is the debut novel by Fiona Collins and it will not disappoint!

The story is based around three best friends Imogen, Grace and Frankie who all live on the same street. The girls decided to make a pact to be single for a year after a string of unsuccessful relationships, an affair and being taken for granted. However the Girl's plans to swear of men don't exactly go according to plan and it isn't long before they are all keeping secrets from each other.

I found Fiona Collin's debut novel to be light hearted and entertaining and a great read for anybody that enjoys a bit of Chic Lit. It is the perfect book to read on a night in, with a cuppa and your pj's!
I look forward to reading more books by Fiona Collins and will be keeping her on my radar.

A big thankyou to Carina UK for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.
