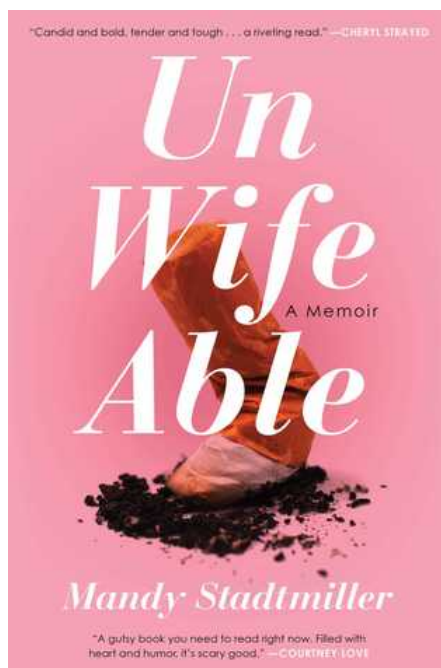




Unwifeable: A Memoir

Mandy Stadtmiller

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Unwifeable: A Memoir Mandy Stadtmiller

From the popular, “candid and bold, tender and tough” (Cheryl Strayed) dating columnist for *New York* magazine and the *New York Post* comes a whirlwind and “gutsy” (Courtney Love) memoir recounting countless failed romances and blackout nights, told with Mandy Stadtmiller’s unflinching candor and brilliant wit.

My story is not unique. Single girl comes to New York; New York eats her alive. But what does stand out is my discovery that you can essentially live a life that appears to be a textbook manual for everything one can do wrong to find love—and still find Mr. Right.

Mandy Stadtmiller came to Manhattan in 2005, newly divorced, thirty years old, with a job at the *New York Post*, ready to conquer the city and the industry in one fell swoop. Like a “real-life Carrie Bradshaw” (so called by Jenny McCarthy), she proceeded to chronicle her fearless attempts for nearly a decade in the *Post*, *New York* magazine, and *xoJane*.

But underneath the glitz and glamour of her new life, there is a darker side threatening to surface. She goes through countless failed high-profile hookups in the New York comedy and writing scene. There are soon too many nights she can't remember, and the blind spots start to add up. She begins to realize that falling in love won't fix her—she needs to fix herself first.

Unwifeable is a New York fairytale brought to life—*Sex and the City* on acid. With hysterical insight, unabashed sexuality, and unprecedented levels of raw, honest pain, *Unwifeable* is a “blisteringly candid” (Sarah Hepola, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Blackout*) book that you can’t help but respond and relate to—perfect for fans of Amy Schumer and Chelsea Handler.

Unwifeable: A Memoir Details

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Author : Mandy Stadtmiller
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From Reader Review Unwifeable: A Memoir for online ebook

Vanessa Botelho says

This is the most Raw and honest Memoir I have ever read. This book took so much courage and strength to write and I applaud the author for being so honest. I found this to be a very relatable book to many women and the struggles we go through in our lives. This book gives women hope for a better tomorrow. Once I picked up this book and started reading I was super interested and felt a connection with the author even though we have never met. I felt like most women reading this book will feel the same, feel a connection with Mandy because we have all at some point fought a losing battle or are still fighting these battles and this book just gives us hope. At certain points during reading I felt so much for Mandy and her struggles. This is a book I will be recommending to a few of my girlfriends. Thank you so much for this honest and true memoir Mandy Stadtmiller.

Lisa says

"I am unloveable, I am unwifeable. I am a failure. I am not worth it." Wow - when I came across this passage in the book I was stunned because of the raw authenticity of it and also because I could 100% relate to the author. This is a memoir that will touch your life because it is REAL and profound and very very funny in parts. I could not put this book down once I started reading it. I so appreciate the author sharing her life with her readers especially with the details that she shares. While this is a memoir and not technically a self-help book, I think the book will help people because it gives voice to things that we all think and feel but maybe don't have the courage to face head on. I appreciated hearing everything the author did in her life to seek change and I love the Free Therapy this book affords me! This is a must read!

I was given a free copy of this book to read from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

Jen Ryland says

I remember reading Mandy Stadtmiller's pieces in the NY Post around 10 years ago so I really was excited to try this but the first couple chapters just weren't grabbing me.

I may try this again though - just read her Wikipedia bio and there's got to be some interesting stuff in here!!

Read more of my reviews on JenRyland.com! Check out my Bookstagram! Or check out my Jen In Ten reviews on Youtube - get the lowdown on current books in 10-30 seconds!

Thanks to the publisher for providing an advance copy for review!

Lauren says

I received this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

And I wish I hadn't.

I've tried to write this review in multiple ways but every time I try it comes out meaner than the last. I'm not sure this version will be any better but I swear I'm trying.

This book is full of problems and woes that I cannot relate to. It is full of problems that no woman I know could relate to. Though other reviews seem to point to some sense of a relatable cache of "problems women go through" I think they more likely mean "problems upper middle class white women go through." This memoir reads like a caricature of white girl self-pity with a heavy dose of name dropping, drunken sexual encounters.

The writing style itself is functional but gets lost in the convoluted narrative arc that highlights--rather than personal growth--a consistent trend of first world problems wherein Stadtmiller attempts to come across as an everywoman but instead secures her place as an unrelatable person who happens to be a proficient writer.

I slogged through her various "starfucker" anecdotes and horrifyingly repetitive nights of binge drinking for little reward. Though I didn't need Stadtmiller to be likeable or her book to point out any great human truth, I did need there to be a reason to read. After much effort spent searching, it turns out there just isn't one.

Janilyn Kocher says

Unwifeable is a narrative of a woman hell bent on self destruction. She drank herself into stupors, had raunchy sexual escapades, and doped up on drugs and then wrote all about it for the NY Post. It's also sad that Stadtmiller valued herself so little that she imbibed in the dissolute rituals. In the end, she turns it around and finds her salvation, in more ways than one.

Rebecca says

A big thank you to Simon & Schuster Canada for sending along a review copy of this book.

Fans of Cheryl Strayed and Stephanie Klein will enjoy this raw memoir that touches on everything from alcoholism and binge eating to sexual addiction. I wasn't familiar with the author and so when I glanced at the pink cover and title (I completely missed the cigarette on the cover), I expected some saccharine, cringey chick lit romance thing. Instead, I was surprised at how relatable and honest Stadtmiller's writing is, especially when describing her journey with various self-destructive behaviours and undeserved self-loathing all the way to self-acceptance. I'm so glad that she actually goes into detail about some very personal roadblocks and all of the ups and downs (especially the downs) rather than sugarcoating the outcome as some writers might have done. A quick, witty and touching read.

Ronya says

I know you're supposed to have compassion for those who are fighting addiction and have been the victims of abuse but I just could not find it in me to see Mandy as anything but an annoying, careless, selfish, name dropping gossip writer. It seemed to me more an opportunity to tell her tales and brag about her conquests than it was one to reflect upon her life, mistakes, choices, etc. I respect she had the wherewithal to get

through that [20 year] phase but found it more a cringeworthy account than a story of growth and redemption.

Sarah Ames-Foley says

You can find more reviews like this on my blog.

This was a really difficult read for me. It felt like rubbernecking, like witnessing someone else's painful life-changing crash and not looking away even though you know you should. This memoir was unbelievably candidly honest, peeling back the layers none of us want to see. It was awkward and filled with secondhand embarrassment, it was graphic and showy, I had no idea how to feel about it and I honestly still don't.

I never played games at all with men. Ever. Unless the game was to act like the kind of nightmare who hysterically cries at the drop of a hat and replies on a man for all manner of self-validation, self-worth, and approval to fill that giant gaping hole inside.

This memoir details Mandy's life in New York City and her experiences with alcoholism -- and addiction of all kinds. It details her relationships with men, most of which crash and burn. It's hard for me to evaluate how to feel about this, because I know in general people tend to be much harder on women when it comes to being frank about raunchy behavior. The thing is, I just don't love reading about raunchy behavior.

As an adult, I can have all the alcohol I want, anytime I want. Which, when you have no boundaries, is a dangerous combination.

It would feel more like someone's life journey if it weren't for the incessant name dropping. She lists maybe every celebrity she's ever had an encounter with, and makes sure to emphasize the particularly unsavory encounters. This makes it feel more showy than anything else and it's hard to take her accounts more seriously than a continued cry for attention. I don't know Mandy and I'm not going to pretend to know anything about Mandy, but she talks a lot about how oversharing in her writing has done her so much harm in her past, and I guess it's hard for me to understand how this isn't just a continuation of that.

Is it fun? I don't know. Is self-harm fun? You be the judge.

Regardless, this is a pretty worthwhile read. Mandy is an incredibly good writer, and it's easy to cruise through this book -- if you don't have to keep putting it down every time a particularly embarrassing scene pops up. I think a lot of good topics are discussed, I just wish there had been more of an emphasis on recovery than detailing every dirty encounter she ever had.

Debbie Pell Dunning says

This book knocked the wind out of me -- Mandy's story combined with her self-awareness and ability to touch the reader's emotional nerves make hers such a fresh and refreshing voice. Her soul-baring confessions made me remember choices and feelings of my own that I've never been brave enough to put into words. This has got to be one of the hottest books of the year -- I think that every woman should read it. Her life experiences are unique and universal at the same time. At times you wonder how she survived such a fast life in Manhattan media and society while encumbered by such powerful self-destructive impulses. The title tells you how hard she judged herself, the way we all do at times. But spoiler alert, there's a very happy ending, this is a true love story -- it made me cry real tears, and I wanted more. Gonna buy the audio book because

this is worth revisiting more than once.

Virginia says

This might be the most depressing book I've ever read, and I've read *Where the Red Fern Grows*.

Don't get me wrong, Ms. Stadtmiller is a fantastic writer. She's clever, self-abasing, unapologetic, and funny. Her climb up the ladder of success and social notoriety is also pretty interesting. But this was pure voyeuristic discomfort from start to finish. She turns things around at the end—sort of—and occasional gems of wisdom pop up from time to time, but it never quite makes up for all the insecure, degrading self-destruction that precedes it.

(I received this book for free through a Goodreads giveaway.)

Roxy says

There were some cringeworthy moments that made me think we she did the things she did. She clearly didn't like it, but she did it anyway.

For a journalist, the memoir read like it was written by a high-schooler.

Kayo says

Funny but a bit cringe-worthy. Sometimes a bit hard to read, knowing she allowed certain things to happen. Overall good.

Sasha Brown-Worsham says

I loved this book. So honest and raw and beautiful. It made me want to spend even more time hearing Mandy muse on life. The writing is gorgeous, too. Just a complete winner. Don't miss it.

Up All Night With Books says

ARC provided for honest review

I'm rarely at a loss for words, but I find it difficult to put into words how I feel about Mandy Stadtmiller's memoir, *Unwifeable*. At first blush (or second or third), this feels like a tawdry tell-all. Mandy does not mince words or descriptions of her life in NYC following her divorce.

Parts of *Unwifeable* are so in your face that I felt like a voyeur reading it. Like it was a car crash or a train wreck, but I just couldn't look away. Other parts are so poignant and sad that I wish I was her friend and I

could just wrap her in a big hug and tell her I was sorry she was going through this.

Mandy Stadtmiller is a talented writer and comedienne and I'm happy I pushed through the uncomfortable bits. If we are all honest with ourselves, we have done things we are not proud of, but we don't regret them because they bring us to where we are today. Mandy's *Unwifeable* follows the trajectory of her discovery of this. She lived her life as if she had no fear, accepting every dare, every challenge, being "in your face" fearless, but was in fact just as insecure and unsure as the rest of us. She just acted it out in such a unabashed way.

This book is brazen. It is in your face. It is unapologetic. Just like her life. And, yet, it is heartfelt and hopeful. Just like her life.

I highly recommend *Unwifeable*, but be warned. It may make you feel uncomfortable, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing.

4.5 Stars

Morgan Schulman says

I was given in advanced readers copy in exchange for an honest review. I had requested this book because I loved XO Jane to death and because Cat Marnell's memoir was entertaining as hell. Unfortunately, this book is lurid without being entertaining, and just feels like I read somebody's AA 4th step or sat in on somebody's therapy session. I felt uncomfortable, not enlightened. Not sure what she was trying to achieve, but I don't think she achieved it
