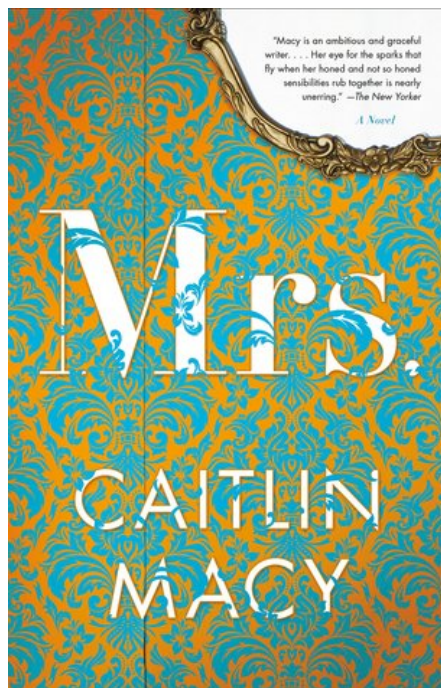




Mrs.

Caitlin Macy

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In the well-heeled milieu of New York's Upper East Side, coolly elegant Philippa Lye is the woman no one can stop talking about. Despite a shadowy past, Philippa has somehow married the scion of the last family-held investment bank in the city. And although her wealth and connections put her in the center of this world, she refuses to conform to its gossip-fueled culture.

Then, into her precariously balanced life, come two women: Gwen Hogan, a childhood acquaintance who uncovers an explosive secret about Philippa's single days, and Minnie Curtis, a newcomer whose vast fortune and frank revelations about a penurious upbringing in Spanish Harlem put everyone on alert.

When Gwen's husband, a heavy-drinking, obsessive prosecutor in the US Attorney's Office, stumbles over the connection between Philippa's past and the criminal investigation he is pursuing at all costs, this insulated society is forced to confront the rot at its core and the price it has paid to survive into the new millennium.

Macy has written a modern-day *House Of Mirth*, not for the age of railroads and steel but of hedge funds and overnight fortunes, of scorched-earth successes and abiding moral failures. A brilliant portrait of love, betrayal, fate and chance, *Mrs* marries razor-sharp social critique and page-turning propulsion into an unforgettable tapestry of the way we live in the 21st Century.

Mrs. Details

Date : Published February 13th 2018 by Little, Brown and Company

ISBN : 9780316434157

Author : Caitlin Macy

Format : Hardcover 341 pages

Genre : Fiction, Contemporary, Abandoned, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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From Reader Review Mrs. for online ebook

jmNYC says

Fun send-up of Upper East Side types, sharply observed.

Betsy says

This Book was a S L O W send up of the “haves” ... - turned out to be a downer NOT anywhere near Big Little Lies ...nope.

Jennifer ~ TarHeelReader says

3.5 elegant stars to Mrs.! ?? ?? ?? .5

Caitlin Macy’s novel, Mrs., is a character study featuring Philippa Lye, a socialite who has it all, or so it appears to be precariously portrayed. Her life is shaken up when two other women enter the scene, Gwen Hogan and Minnie Curtis. The dynamics between the three women are fascinating to watch. How will Philippa cope when Gwen’s husband uncovers an enormous secret from her past that’s sure to ruin her reputation and standing in the community?

Philippa, Gwen, and Minnie live on the Upper East Side of New York City, and while I found none of the characters particularly likable or relatable, I enjoyed watching how the story unhurriedly unfolded, exposing betrayal, secrets, and lies. The storylines were dramatic and at times a little stereotyped.

Overall, I found the characters to be vividly depicted, and the story was engaging and well-planned.

Thank you to Caitlin Macy, Little, Brown and Company, and Netgalley for the copy to read and review. Mrs. is available now!

Sue Gerhardt Griffiths says

It’s hard to put my finger on why I enjoyed this book but there was just something delightful about it. For all its unusualness, call me crazy, but I loved it!

Looking forward to the authors next book.

Aisling says

3.5 stars, really. The writing is good, the plot slightly less so. Like many other reviewers I almost gave up on this book (and I rarely, rarely do that) because the characters were completely unrelatable and the plot moved

slowly. I like Ms Macy's writing and observances but did not give a lick about one single character. After reading several reviews that said the ending was worth it, I plowed on.

The second half of the book is better. There is some deft weaving of plot and characters. Nothing unpredictable --done is a very good but not quite great way. Enough to save a dull first 200 pages? Well, I would not loan this book to a friend (unless they were uber rich NY or hedge fund people) but I would definitely give the author another try.

Karen says

I really wanted to like this book but was sadly disappointed. I found the narrative disjointed, the characters dull and the plot unimaginative. It was a struggle to finish it.

Barbara says

"Mrs." Is another novel about the ultra privileged families in New York. What sets this one apart from others is author Caitlin Macy's writing skills. She provides great observations of the insecurities of the wealthy, and humorously pokes fun at them.

Philippa Skinker is an ex fashion model who is beautiful, wealthy, and distracted. She could care less about social conventions and who does or does not like her. It could be because she has a bit of a drinking problem.

The story begins at pick-up time at an exclusive preschool in the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Philippa arrives late, per usual, in a taxi with a minor dispute with the taxi driver about the fare. A new mother to the school, Minnie Curtis, tries to befriend Philippa, which is a faux pas and not following protocol. It's a funny scene. The third main character is Gwen Hogan who is not part of the wealthy mother group, but knew Philippa back in primary school. The three characters lives collide into a strange and humorous plot.

I enjoyed the story, but found some of Macy's rambling sentences distracting. The best parts of the novel are when she provides dialogue. I recommend it to those who love character-driven stories.

Dianne says

This is a hard one to review. The synopsis of the book is technically accurate, but it's written in a very cool and removed tone with a lot of exposition and unnecessary detail. Since the book's milieu is Upper East Side New York, the tone is probably intentional and is meant to reinforce the superficial verneer of the surroundings. Maybe. I don't know.

It's a slightly odd novel, which is probably why it has fairly low ratings for Goodreads. It's a choppy read, as Macy alternates between several characters at various points in their lives. She even uses the Greek chorus routine in several chapters, in which a group of unnamed peers weigh in with one voice on one of the main characters ("To repeat, we had nothing against her. In fact, we all really liked her.").

If you like social critique kinds of books about the wealthy and privileged and are okay with offbeat writing

styles, you may enjoy this. I liked it but I also had to get into it a good ways before I felt comfortable. I would definitely read something by Macy again, but she may be an acquired taste.

Siobhan Bejr says

It might be a bit unfair to rate this book as 1 star after choosing to finish it after 107 pages but, try as I might, there was no way I could get in to the book. By page 50 I realised that absolutely nothing had happened and was still not happening any time soon. I had no interest in the characters at all and tried flicking through later in the book and realised it was still just as bland.

I'm sorry but I really did try!!

Heather Boaz ([mleboaz.bibliophile](https://mleboaz.bibliophile.com)) says

Thank you Little Brown & Company for my free copy for review!

It is important to realize that this is a character-driven story - there is a plot, and it's equal parts scandalous and delicious - but that's not quite the point here. Macy's writing in this book is being compared to a modern Edith Wharton. And if you know Wharton, you know that the real delight will be in observing carefully crafted, multi-dimensional and fascinating people - and seeing what sort of troubles spin out as they attempt to interact with each other.

The inner and outer lives of these characters are completely on display -obvious to the reader, yet not so obvious to the surrounding characters in this world. This makes for a darkly funny portrait of these Upper East Side families with young children, navigating the worlds of finance and play-dates and attempting to understand each other and behave "correctly". Macy's characters are a study in re-creating people into living, breathing, complicated characters- much the way you would see an incredibly talented actor think through every detail of behavior and motivation making them pop into sparkling clarity.

This might be a fun one to compare and contrast in a book club up next to House of Mirth, or one of Wharton's other books. It is so interesting that while modernized, Macy sticks to this late 19th c. style of making quite a large book out of holding up a magnifying glass to a very specific slice of society.

If you're the sort of person who could spend an afternoon on a park bench, museum bench or an evening at your local cafe with a glass of wine just eavesdropping and watching people, you will certainly love this book.

*3 words: sensational, underbelly, modern

*what i loved: the dynamic dichotomy of inner v. outer lives, particularly in relation to a tightly knit society

*what i questioned: though we see a lot of the complicated husbands inner lives, I would have liked even more of a window in - the balance sits a bit with the women of the book (though, it is aptly titled "Mrs.")

*overall rating: 5 stars

*Find my book posts and pictures on Instagram: [@mleboaz.bibliophile](https://www.instagram.com/mleboaz.bibliophile)

Janine says

I've just read my first worst book of 2018 ? The hype said that this could be the next Big Little Lies - um definitely not. The only comparison is that both books are set around a school, that's all. I found the characters not very likeable, the writing too wordy and too much descriptive narrative. There was so much back story every chapter which became boring. The pace picked up at around 80% but then deteriorated again. No use telling you what it was about, why did I bother ?

Michelle says

The fundamental flaw in Caitlin Macy's novel, *Mrs.*, is that she assumes readers are going to care about the über-wealthy New York socialites with their nannies, multi-million dollar apartments complete with doormen, and places for their children among the toniest private preschools in the city. I do not see this happening. In fact, given the fervor over the recent tax changes and the growing divide between the haves and the have-nots, I see the exact opposite occurring. It is difficult to feel sorry for or find empathy for the social elite and their scandals when so many others in the world are struggling to put food on the table.

This is not to mention that pretty much every character within the novel is fairly despicable. In the scenes that take place in front of the school and among the various other interactions of the parents, the story does call to mind *Big Little Lies*, except the women and men in Ms. Macy's care even less about their children and more about how the world perceives them. They are pretentious, self-obsessed, and completely oblivious to the real world. We are supposed to fall under the spell of Phillipa's mysterious confidence and take pity on her past. We are supposed to empathize with Minnie as she attempts to break into this new social circle. We are supposed to see ourselves in Gwen as the most "normal" mother of the bunch. Except we don't because there is nothing to connect these characters with the readers.

Phillippa remains aloof and untouchable even once we know her most sacred and shameful secret. Minnie remains a social climber, anxious to make it into the top milieu and stay there. As for Gwen, while other readers might find her wholesomeness and the sacrifices made for the sake of her family admirable, I could not do so. I got a kick out of the fact that she was the only mother to actually cook real meals for her family, but there is a forcefulness behind her domesticity that is bothersome.. It is as if Ms. Macy needed someone to whom readers would relate and created Gwen to fit that mold, except she missed out on one crucial detail. The reasons for Gwen becoming and remaining a stay-at-home mother never ring true. Neither does she provide an adequate explanation given how much time Gwen spends reminiscing about and longing for her former career. Ms. Macy spends little time explaining why Gwen gives up her beloved job and practically no time explaining why she continues to remain home. All of the reasons mothers stay home do not apply to Gwen's situation, so it makes no sense and is yet another black spot within the story.

Another element that disconnects the readers from the story is the criminal investigation over which Gwen's husband obsesses. The story occurs just after one of the numerous investing scandals of the early 2000s. The husbands and fathers of the novel are mostly men involved in the investing business. Considering the recession that occurred after these scandals hit the front pages, it is difficult to find sympathy with anyone who earns their money in that field. To make things worse, Ms. Macy constructs her novel in such a manner that assumes readers understand the ins and outs of the world of trading, so there is little explanation to help readers understand what is illegal about certain transactions or why. The obscene amounts of money made by these traders and the lifestyle they afford sets them apart from everyday readers and is a tiny bit disgusting

given how many people lost their homes and livelihoods as a result of the investing scandals.

Mrs. may be social critique but it is social critique of the one-percenters. Frankly, it is difficult to get upset about these so-called social elite tearing themselves apart over a scandal or three. Moreover, the subject of class and privilege is too divisive right now for her story to be in step with the times. This is not escapist literature, as one cannot escape to such a back-stabbing, false world of gossip, innuendo, and mimicry. It is a heavy novel, with topics that are anything but light. Neither is it amusing because the fact remains there is a social strata that lives this way. Mrs. is the type of novel that would be more successful were the country in the midst of an economic boom and political harmony. As it stands, it is the wrong story for the wrong time, and each page is a reminder of the great divide that separates us more every day.

Chris Mara says

One "poor" star rating and truthfully, I'm being generous. This book was a complete and utter disappointment. I had no idea where we were going with this story - it was so disjointed! The characters were dull and unlikeable and I just did not even want to read any more about them to find out why. The plot was just all over the place, like a big train wreck. People having conversations but uttering back responses like ummh or mmh mmh, or not even responding back at all. Why was I wasting my time with this? I'm not - this is a DNF, R.I.P. book.

Reading.Between.Wines says

?? / 5

First of all, thank you so much to Little, Brown and Company for sending me a free finished copy of this book, I really appreciate it!

I feel TERRIBLE, but this was just not the book for me. I got to page 76 and I just could not go on. I wasn't into the book at all and there wasn't anything going on that interested me. This was my first ever, and I mean ever, DNF. ?

I hope everyone else will have better luck than I did!

* This book was published on 13, February 2018 *

debra says

2.5- Was looking for something a little more gossipy like Primates Of Park Avenue or Swans of Fifth. This wasn't it, and the characters were never fleshed out enough to be real in their own right.
