



The Making Of Mia

Ilana Fox

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Gorgeous, feel-good debut of one woman's journey from rags to bitches...

The Making Of Mia Details

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From Reader Review The Making Of Mia for online ebook

Alicia says

This book wasn't too bad. I'm sorry, I personally didn't laugh much, but that might just be because it's like a more mature joke or something? I don't know, but it was a pretty good book. Joanne Hill takes control of her life as she tries to get revenge against her former boss, Joshua, for humiliating her and eventually firing her. With her connections and cunning mind, she manages to dupe Joshua in a way he didn't think possible.

Well written and definitely a book meant for girls, haha~ It was interesting and cliché, but not so much so that it ruined the book. There was always that element of surprise and I enjoyed it ~!

The part of the book that really strikes the reader is the ridicule and the crap that Joanne had to endure. Self conscious and insecure, she goes through life barely hanging on. Her actions later on in the novel are empowering and cunning. However, though the novel was quite interesting, I didn't like the portion about plastic surgery. Maybe it's just me and the fact that I don't really support that kind of thing, but that part of the book I instinctively frowned upon. However, the novel was very good overall~

Plot: 4/5

Characters: 4/5

Writing: 4.5/5

Cover: 4/5

Overall: 4/5

GoodReads Rating: 3.81/5

-review by Between Printed Pages

Anne says

I reviewed this for Waterstones. Definitely chick lit, but with quite a moral behind the story. Sort of The Ugly Duckling meets The Devil Wears Prada. Enjoyable, not brain taxing by any means, good holiday read.

Leah says

Joanne Hill has always been a bit dowdy and fat and after years of bullying she finally achieves her dream of working on a glossy magazine (aptly titled Gloss!). After starting as a lowly typist, Jo finds herself working for Joshua, the head honcho of the magazine, as his PA. Jo finally believes she's on her way to becoming editor of her own magazine but it all falls flat when Joshua ignores Jo's ideas for Gloss. After making her cry and firing her from her job, Jo vows to get her revenge. The question is, just how far will Jo go to exact her revenge?

Since reading some fab reviews of Ilana Fox's debut novel The Making of Mia I finally got around to buying it for myself. I didn't want to start it straight away as I was already reading something but I wanted to get it read before Ilana's second book comes out so I know if I want to read it or not. After finishing my latest book, the fab teen read Before I Fall, I wanted to read a light and breezy chick lit book so I picked up The Making of Mia and I'm so pleased I did.

The prologue is told from the point of view of Mia and is set in 2007. It really drew me in especially as I knew that some way along the way Jo becomes Mia so it made me eager to know how the transformation takes place. We then go back to 2000 when Jo is still at school - a posh boarding school no less - and it soon becomes apparent that no matter where she goes, or what she does, Jo is always bullied. There's only one reason Jo is bullied and that is her size. All of the girls in her school - and later, in her working life - all appear to be stick thin and so Jo stands out like a sore thumb. The book then follows Jo's progress from school-girl to her twenties as she begins working for Gloss magazine. I have got no idea whether anything that happens in the book really is akin to what really happens in a magazine but if it is, I really don't agree! Jo goes through some horrific things at the hands of her employers and when push comes to the shove, nobody stands by her.

In a bid to get away from her failing career, Jo heads off to Miami to spend time with Amelia, her only friend from school, and ends up staying in Miami for a couple of years. In that time, Jo becomes friends with Gable, an aspiring actor. As Jo begins to think out how she can get her revenge on her mean ex-boss, Joshua, Gable inspires Jo to take some drastic action. What emerges from the ashes is Mia Blackwood and Mia has one thing on her mind: to get revenge on Joshua. The plot of *The Making of Mia* certainly isn't unique and takes pinches from *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Devil Wears Prada* and *Ugly Betty* and creates an incredibly readable plot.

From the off Jo isn't exactly an inspiring character as she's overweight, immensely unhappy and unable to lose weight as she can't seem to stop eating. She's hardly your ideal heroine but as she grows into herself and eventually manages to control her weight, she becomes so much more likeable. It's her determination to work in journalism that made me warm to her immediately. As she keeps getting knocked back and back I didn't think she'd ever end up realising her dream. She really came into her own in Miami and even more so when she transformed into Mia. As she began to formulate her plan for revenge I wound up liking her more and more. She becomes quite manipulative and it was so great to see her come out of her shell. Jo is the only main character in the book but there are a lot of supporting characters. Amelia, a friend of Jo's from high school, is a huge influence in Jo's life and she seemed really nice and so different to the rest of the girls at Jo's old school. The only other supporting character seemed to be Will, a friend Jo makes before she gets a job at Gloss. He makes regular appearances in the book and I loved him immensely. Joshua, the head honcho at Gloss, is hugely unlikeable and to see Jo plot her revenge made for such great reading. I kept praying and hoping Joshua would get his come-uppance eventually.

The Making of Mia is told in the third-person narrative which really worked and I hugely enjoyed Ilana's writing. It may not be up to the standards of some authors but it's hugely easy to get into and is an enjoyable style of writing. It's very simplistic and the book is packed full with fab stories about the magazine world. No, they're not entirely pleasant stories but they were still really good. The descriptions of Florida are fantastic - I've holidayed twice in Florida, although it was in Orlando and not Miami - and I adore the sunshine state and it makes a change to be told about a different American state rather than NYC or LA. As much as I adore stories set in New York and Los Angeles I do enjoy a change of destination and Florida is definitely that.

Ilana Fox is a hugely promising author and I cannot wait for her second book which is due out soon. *The Making of Mia* is a fantastic read and one I totally enjoyed. Some may disagree with how far Jo goes in her bid to get her revenge - I thought it was going to put me off actually - but in the end, as all is explained, it was totally worth it and it all made sense. Do go and pick this up, it's a fab read.

Marie Carlino says

This book is fantastic!!

It's a more humorous and fabulous version of The Devil Wears Prada. I love how real the character of Jo/ Mia is. I love how she stood by her morals and didn't give in to any guys after her makeover and waited for the one guy she ever loved to come back to her. I love how honest the book is and doesn't fluff around the reality that discrimination against 'overweight' people exists and how much it can influence the course of someone's life. This is contrasted later in the story after she has her makeover and reader's see how sleazy guys act towards her. This book highlights how much external appearances dictate so many aspects of our life. I am glad that at the end of the book Jo/ Mia gets most of the surgery reversed. It proves the character of the character??

I strongly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys chic lit.

Sarah Felix says

I bought this book at a second hand bookstore when I was 17 out of severe boredom. Little did I know how much it would change me for years to come. I had never bothered to exercise a day in my life before reading this book but after reading it, I had all the motivation to do it. It was this book that got me going and I will never give it away.

A truly inspiring read.

Morv says

It's an all right book, basic chick-lit and the like, the story was good and different, but the ending was a bit... Well it felt rushed, certain characters that we didn't know that well were shown to be good pals with the main character Jo/Mia. Only certain characters were really given any expansion, Jo/Mia, her best friend Amielia, William and Gable. The other characters, such as Lucy, who turns out to be rather helpful to Mia in the third part of the book, isn't really expanded upon, which would have been nice since she ends up being a close friend.

A good beach read, but nothing overly special.

Chris says

Firstly, it's a really good idea and made you want to follow the story. But it's total trash for holiday reading. It's a sort of Ugly Duckling meets The Devil Wears Prada meets She Devil.

I picked it up in the library and was drawn to it as I'm a journalist. However, as a journalist, The Making of Mia made me slightly angry.

While Joanne Hill may well have bags of enthusiasm and was shunned because she didn't fit in to the thin, bitchy and glamorous world of women's magazines due to her image, she also has to be realistic. She has no experience or no media qualifications, so she really needed a reality check if she thought getting a secretarial job would lead her to that. Some of those bitches on Gloss have worked hard (and probably walked over a lot of people to get there). I certainly wouldn't have employed her.

The language is very descriptive and made me laugh, especially when Jo gets embarrassed, as I could

imagine the character in those situations.

There are a few flaws in the plot - how the hell was Mia, an American, allowed to work in the UK without being found out if she didn't have a visa or ID, or even get paid? And not even Anna Wintour would be getting paid that much as a freelancer when she was writing as Olivia Windsor.

Fox also created a monster out of Mia, who became very wrapped up in the luxury world around her, wearing expensive clothes yet pushing for real women to be themselves in high street-trends. She could have easily afforded a holiday to Barbados after taking her mates on holiday to Thailand too.

I feel she should have ballooned to a UK average size 16 by the end of it, oozing sex appeal and feeling more confident in herself.

I could imagine this being turned into some made-for-tv drama. Still, a very fun debut.

Deereads says

Mia's like quick sand,
the faster she rose
the quicker she sank

she became the embellishment of everything that is wrong with today's media society and the fashion industry. So frustrating, the main character was so naive and annoying, her transformation into Mia really made her into the cunning b****h which she hated about her boss Joshua. Joanna may have been a disaster but she was real, she lost her self completely in her thirst for revenge. Personally, I wouldn't recommend it but it was a nice light read a change from the usual angst book.

BTW how old is Mia? one minute she's 25 the next she's 28. (Agh, message to the author: "bloody fire your editor").

Moon Love says

I believe this is Ilana Fox's debut book. It's a damn good book, please pardon my French. It's captivating and hard to put down. I really liked Jo. She's got a great personality, drive, and nature. So what if she's 16 stone? It really bothered me how much she got picked on. So to see her grow into herself and gain confidence in herself was great. It also gave her the boost she needed to change herself and try to get revenge on the one man who had brought her down, Josh Garnett.

The book is fast paced and flows well from one part to the next. Jo, I think takes some extreme steps to reach her goals, and while I don't agree with all of them, they certainly add to the drama and story line. If "Spotlight" is anything like "The Making of Mia," I am going to have to get my hands on it asap!

Cathy says

Wonderful debut from British chick lit author, Ilana Fox. From an ugly duckling to a beautiful swan, Jo Hill emerges in the world of fashion magazines more prosperous and successful than she could have dreamed - trouble is, no one knows her as Jo Hill anymore. After a major makeover, Jo makes her re-emergence to the world as Hollywood heartthrob's little sister, Mia Blackwell to exact her revenge on one man in particular, Joshua Garnett, former boss, an arrogant, cheating, lying and overall despicable man who happens to also be

the most powerful man in the magazine business. Will Mia get her man? Will she find her place in the world? Listen to the unabridged audio, beautifully read by narrator Patience Tomlinson. Recommended to anyone who enjoys a true, modern fairy tale. A plus.

Goddess Of Blah says

Brilliant, funny and with lots of revenge. However, not an original script (Jane Green did something similar in *Jemima J: A Novel About Ugly Ducklings and Swans* – although her book was pretty much a clichéd and far less interesting story – *The Making of Mia* is like the improved version)

This book has lots of laugh out loud moments, a brilliant manifestation of girl power (albeit a chick lit way rather than a feminist serious way), a well plotted revenge and some romance. No clichéd dark, tall and handsome knight saves the day. This is about women claiming the top spot for themselves and with loads of fun. The ending could have been much better though. Everything fell into place a bit too nicely, a bit too pat. And the girls are far too successful to give their success credibility. And sadly, like many authors Ilana Fox unfortunately rushes her “happily ever after” ending.

Overall its quite stupendous and a most welcoming read. I highly recommend you read it.

<http://goddessofblah.blog.com/>

Helen Merrick says

This book appalled me. Not because its badly written, or because its a story of an overweight girl growing up to get revenge on those who bullied her and men who hurt her. But because the triumphant ending is due to her losing heaps of weight, getting plastic surgery, spending enormous amounts of money on clothes and hair and shoes.

So girls, never fear, all will be well if you make lots of money and get yourself fixed. The fact that at the end she regrets the surgery, lets her hair go back to its normal colour and 'gains weight' to be a nice size 12 does not undo the damage of this message.

Rebecca says

This book was one of the trashiest books I have read in a long long time (except for the next book I read). Looks and beauty play a huge role in this book, which I always hate. Quote ugly Unquote girl wants to work at a magazine. She is not good looking, but apparently very smart and because she is not good looking, no one will hire her. Ohmigod, so FAKE! It's her trials and tribulations on how she makes it in the magazine world, in the end, but getting plastic surgery, so she can have her dream job (horrible thing to tell young girls!) Everything of course works out for her in the end, but having to do that, just for a job?! Lame! This would so never happen in real life. Made for a trashtastic read, but too fake for me.

Grade: C-

Rhiannon-mairi Glen says

This is honestly the worst book I've ever read. The plot is all over the place, the editing is horrific - you have to laugh at the irony - and overall, the book doesn't make sense. There are so many gaps in the story. Why does Joshua think Mia is his girlfriend? Why does he PROPOSE? Nobody in their right mind proposes to someone they've never dated.(And let's not even discuss the William situation). The conclusion is far too rushed, as are other parts of the books. The majority of the characters are extremely underdeveloped. You can get a bloody job without morphing your face; I feel the message of the story is extremely grim and unrealistic. I only finished the book because I was hoping Ilana Fox would redeem herself by the end of the novel, but sadly, she didn't. I'm flabbergasted that she is a journalist, as writers who write about what they know tend to be good at it. There are definitely parts of the story where she has NO idea what she's talking about, whatsoever. Names were mixed up, and incorrect words were used. She used far too many similar adjectives, and was very repetitive with some words and the characters' personalities, to be quite frank. She explained the gestures of the characters in far too much detail, and it sounds stupid. As a published author and journalist, her lack of writing skills shock me. I will never read one of her books again, it was a waste of time and \$2. Don't read it!!

Danielle Langlois says

I loved 2/3rds of the book but it got too "fake life" towards the end. I was expecting a nice moral story and thought it got a little silly with the plastic surgery and the timeline didn't add up for Mia's age.
