



Playing with Boys

Alisa Valdes , Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez

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From the author of *The Dirty Girls Social Club* comes another fast, funny, soulful, and sexy novel about friendship and love amid Latinas.

It's a jungle out there -- in Los Angeles, that is, where the tangle of freeways and ingrained insincerity can make a girl feel very alone, no matter how fabulous the weather or how cute the clothes at the South Coast Plaza mall. With very different styles and attitudes, Marcella, Olivia, and Alexis are trying to crack the code in L.A, trying to snare love and success. But first they have to come together—to make their marks and plan the fun they're going to have along the way.

Marcella is a hot, sharp young television actress who's barely able to enjoy the life she's bought for herself and certainly isn't enjoying her body, which is never quite perfect enough. Olivia, whose life revolves around her toddler son, Jack, is tethered to her suburban mommy track so tightly she can *almost* forget the horrible thing that happened to her family when she was a child herself. Alexis is a musicians' manager with a smart mouth, an ample body, and loads of style but barely enough self-esteem to fill a Prada card case. And the boys in their lives? Marcella's had about enough of them throwing themselves at her; Olivia's boy is her son; and Alexis is still searching, not for a boy this time, but for a man.

Playing with Boys is a savvy novel with charm, style, and heart to spare.

Playing with Boys Details

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From Reader Review Playing with Boys for online ebook

Crystal says

This is the novel that introduced me to Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez and got me hooked on her chick-lit with a Hispanic twist books. Don't assume I'm prejudiced for pointing out the ethnicity either, as she makes it abundantly clear throughout the books that she is attempting to represent Hispanic culture, to greater or lesser degrees, in this book.

the book centers around several VERY different women, all of Hispanic origin, who live in the LA area, dealing with different issues. They eventually all become friends and all find love, of course (it's not a spoiler if it's chick-lit, right? you know that there's a happy ending automatically if it's good chick-lit.) while the boyfriend for the main character sounds pretty much too "good" to be true, the book is just cute and fun and a nice read when you want to relax (and if you aren't deeply familiar with Hispanic culture in general, and especially the history of military conflicts in Central America, you can feel like you're learning something while you relax too!)

Alex Chow says

I fell in love with all of the characters of this book. I loved getting to get a chance to see all of them grow and make it through the hard times to come out of it so happy.

treehugger says

Ok, so I really really did like "Dirty Girls," but this book kept me on a roller coaster - I would be so disappointed by the see-through plot, the paperthin (literally and figuratively) characters, the money-centricity and the false LA lifestyles portrayed that I'd want to yank it out of my CD player and throw it out my car window...those days I wanted to give it 2 stars..or maybe 1..

But then the author would surprise me with an actual intelligent, real life issue that really rose about the artificiality of everything else in this book. Maybe it's because i read the audiobook, but I'm really between 2 and 3 stars here - if you haven't read "Dirty Girls Social Club" yet, don't start here, or you might miss out on a much better book!!

It did have one short, but shockingly hot, sex scene, which was a surprise, but not a reason to run out and get the book, that's for sure. This is one to borrow, not own.

Heidi says

Very fun, relatable, easy read where you feel like you are making new girlfriends as you go through the book

Anastasia says

Ugh! Read this book I think 3-4 times now and I get sucked in the same every time. It's so great. Makes you laugh, makes you cry, even makes you feel other things ;). Lol.

Marie says

This is another book that's been on my shelf for years. I finally read it. I like the writing. It was easy to read. The thing is I didn't really care for the characters. Olivia got on my nerves. I thought Marcella and Alexis had a little bit of debt. I wish they could have gotten their own books to be able to explore these two characters. Toward the end when a big incident happened (I don't want to give it away) it felt very much like an amateur author's work. I found myself skipping around toward the end. Finally, to me, the book had nothing to do with playing with boys. I thought the focus was more on the characters careers in the entertainment industry. So the title is a little misleading for me. I kept waiting for the boy play to happen and it never did, lol.

Bliss says

This is one I started but won't finish. It's OKAY but I'm struggling to really connect with the characters. When I read for pleasure it's to immerse myself in someone else's life. I just can't get there with this book. Perhaps someone else will.

Veronica Rivera says

This book had me laughing tears of joy. The three characters are total opposites that come to together as business associates and then become good friends. The book was honest about the relationships that the women had with each other, and with the men in their lives.

LoLo says

A contemporary cinderella story about 4 very different latina women. I almost stopped reading within the first chapter because it opened with the girl who is a Christian Republican Texan debutant, but I'm glad I was open-minded enough to push through. Thankfully, the following chapter countered her peppy sweetness with a character who survived watching her father's murder at the hands of Reagan-sponsored Contras in El Salvador and later became a hard-core activist. In fact, one of the many themes woven into the story is "don't judge a book by its cover", whether that "cover" be one's body, social status, class, ect. Obviously. But as a woman whose appearance is nothing but a diametric opposition to what lurks within, I always identify deeply with such themes.

The story is fun, exciting, thoughtful, funny, and heartwarming... definitely a great beach read or whenever you just want to kick back & go for a fun ride. The ending is a bit too Hollywood-perfect- the modern "happily ever after" with a helluva cherry on top. But hey, if you're gonna live vicariously, why not go all the way to Happily Ever After? Why stop at Happy, With Realistic Caveats? Or detour over to Who Said Life Is Fair? ;)

Sarah Avocado says

Fun, light read

Violabrooksidegmail.Com says

One of my favorites!!

Victoria says

Very fun! I could not put it down!!!!!!

Lisa Leon says

Not as good as the first but still enjoyed it.

Karla says

Loved it as much as I love to play with boys!

Stina says

I am dumber for having read this book... I encourage everyone to stay the hell away from it and to ignore the reviews on the back touting it as some kind of awesome beach read. This book is stupid... and I generally enjoy chick lit. I hated the characters, hated their choices, hated the men in their lives, hated them hating themselves, hated their clothes and cars, hated their vocabulary, hated their jobs and hated their animals. I hated the beginning, middle and end. If you read this book, even after I have begged you not to, I am not going to feel bad for you when you gouge your eyes out and poke at your brain through your empty sockets in an attempt to erase any memory of this book.
