



What She Wants

Sheila Roberts

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

What She Wants

Sheila Roberts

What She Wants Sheila Roberts

What *do* women want?

Jonathan Templar and his poker buddies can't figure it out. Take Jonathan, for instance. He's been in love with Lissa Castle since they were kids but, geek that he is, she's never seen him as her Mr. Perfect. He has one last shot—their high school reunion. Kyle Long is equally discouraged. The pretty receptionist at his office keeps passing him over for other guys who may be taller but are definitely *not* superior. And Adam Edwards might be the most successful of Jonathan's friends, but he isn't having any success on the home front. His wife's kicked him out.

When Jonathan stumbles on a romance novel at the Icicle Falls library sale, he knows he's found the love expert he's been seeking—Vanessa Valentine, top-selling romance author. At first his buddies laugh at him for reading romance novels, but soon they, too, realize that these stories are the world's best textbooks on love. Poker night becomes book club night...and when all is read and done, they're going to be the kind of men women want!

What She Wants Details

Date : Published March 26th 2013 by Harlequin MIRA (first published January 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9780778314325

Author : Sheila Roberts

Format : Paperback 391 pages

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

 [Download What She Wants ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online What She Wants ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online What She Wants Sheila Roberts

From Reader Review What She Wants for online ebook

Cheshire Public Library says

This is book three of the Life in Icicle Falls series. I didn't read the other two and do not feel like I needed to. This book took me completely by surprise. Most romances center around the angst of women trying to find true love. This book centers around men! It was very refreshing to read a story from the man's perspective.

Jonathan Templar and his poker buddies are single, married, separated, height challenged, balding, overweight and geeky. Not your typical romance heroes! But they all have good hearts and no knowledge on how to get the love of their lives, or keep the loves of their lives.

The main character of this book is Jonathan who has been in love with his childhood neighbor his whole life. She only sees him as her "good friend". Their 15 year high school reunion is coming up and he is determined to change from geeky, skinny, computer nerd, to stud-muffin he-man. He's also determined to learn how to talk to women and learn what they want. His poker buddies also have their women challenges from Adam who thinks he's in love with someone at work, to Kyle whose wife kicks him out for taking her for granted, to Vance who has known love and lost love and has quite the surprise! Ms. Roberts deftly weaves their stories and other secondary characters around Jonathan's. Jonathan's sister starts planting the seed of reading romance novels to learn about women. They attend their local library's book sale and Jonathan ends up buying a ton of romance novels. He approaches reading them as if they were textbooks, highlighting passages and taking notes. He ends up actually enjoying them! His poker buddies accidentally come upon his new hobby and he hooks them into reading the romance novels too. It is quite interesting, humorous and thoroughly engaging to watch these men transform.

This book will make you laugh, cry, and cheer for the underdog. It is very well written, with great character development and scene setting. You'll fall in love with the Town of Icicle Falls and all its characters!

- Reviewed by Linda <http://cheshirelibraryblog.wordpress....>

Harlequin Books says

Miniseries: Life in Icicle Falls

Carrie says

I wanted to like this book, but it was very slow moving and hard for me to get into. I didn't really care too much about the guys and their sad love lives. I wanted to smack Jonathan and tell him to grow up and stop putting Lissa on a pedestal; that maybe he could take a lesson from Kyle and explore the possibility of a real relationship with a real girl. Once they finally reached the reunion, I was drawn in more, but overall, it wasn't my cup of tea. I don't know exactly where to place this genre-wise, but it wasn't romance enough nor chick lit enough for me, and it wasn't a serious novel either. It seemed kind of lost.

Book says

The synopsis of a guy turning to romance novels to learn what the female half of the species wants intrigued me after I read another of her books. I had received Shelia Roberts's *Better Than Chocolate* as part of the Tell Harlequin reader panel.

After Jonathan Templar starts reading romance novels in an effort to turn himself into the hero who could win the woman his heart's been set on since middle school, he starts getting his poker night buddies in on it.

Kyle is looking in all the wrong places for love. His substory is cute and plausible.

Adam is the modern busy guy. Taking his wife for granted until he misses one too many things and gets kicked out of his own house. He must learn how to woo back his wife.

And then they discover who their favorite writer really is.

One thing about this book really annoyed me. You don't see Jonathan's lady interest interact with him until over 80% through the book except for flashbacks to their childhood. You only get Jonathan's view of her and it's very one sided. You see her in flashbacks and on TV, that's it. I was horribly disappointed in Jonathan's story.

Cross posted: *Ramblings of a Lost Dancer*

Gail says

I finished the book last night. I had a hard time putting it down. It made me laugh and cry. Poor Jonathan had to go through so much to get the girl of his dreams. Kyle you would have thought he would wake up and see what is right in front of his face. I knew. I loved watching what Adam had to go through. It was kind of cool seeing the book from the guys perspective which I already knew but it was fun any way. Looking forward to the next book in the *Icicle Falls* series. I just love getting to know the people there. Thanks Sheila for an awesome book. I will post reviews on Amazon and Barnes and Noble for you.

Melanie Mole says

What a lovely read this book was.

It focuses on what women want, and the complexities of how to give them what they want. Sounds confusing? It seems that it might be.

But the answer it seems lies in romance novels. The best of which everyone involved feels are written by Vanessa Valentine. But Vanessa Valentine is not all that she appears to be.

Why, and how this comes to light are a mystery until the story unfolds.

The interwoven relationships between the residents of *Icicle Falls* are always interesting. But this story is slightly different to the usual *Icicle Falls* adventures because an unusual twist prevails.

Each of the residents has their own story to tell. All interesting in their own way.

Some sad, and some seemingly too good to be true. But all adding to this lovely book.

Some of the residents go through wonderful transformations to become a better version of themselves. All to get or keep the woman of their dreams.

Their stories are sad, happy, thought provoking, and almost every emotion in-between.

A good read if you like something lightly different, and an excellent read if you are a fan of the other books about Icicle Falls by Sheila Roberts.

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

Any trip to Icicle Falls is a treat. It reads like an almost perfect small town, one of those places where everyone knows your business, and wants the best for you.

But like most places, under the surface, things aren't always what they seem. Not all the marriages are perfect, and not everyone's experience in high school was happy. Certainly everybody hasn't figured life out by the time of their 15th high school reunion!

Reading about Jonathan Templar and his Friday-night poker buddies turning to romance novels to figure out what women really want definitely turned out to have its share of hilarious moments...but it also ended in some lessons learned for the men involved.

They did figure it out, even if their source of advice turned out to not exactly be the person they thought she was!

Five guys play poker: the town nerd, the successful businessman, and the cubicle dweller, along with one happily married man and one divorced middle-aged cynic. The happily married man knows that the secret is to treat his wife like she's the most important person in his world, because she is.

Jonathan, Kyle and Adam need to learn that lesson, for various reasons of their own. It's Jonathan, the computer guru of the group, who overhears women at the library book sale telling each other that if only men read romance novels they might have a chance at getting a woman and keeping her satisfied.

Jonathan is desperate enough to try, even if he is so embarrassed that he keeps it a secret. Along with his not-so-secret life-long crush on Lissa Castle. But Lissa (of course!) only ever saw him as a friend. Jonathan hopes that, armed with the advice from the books and a complete makeover, he'll be able to sweep Lissa off her feet at their 15th high school reunion at the end of the summer.

His friends Kyle and Adam are equally desperate for reasons of their own. So they all dive headlong into the world of romance novels, hoping that they will be able to find their own happy ever afters with the women of their dreams.

Even if they have to get hit by a clue-by-four to get their dreams on the right track!

Escape Rating B: There are three love stories packed into this one book, but they are woven together by the constant of the Friday night poker get-together. It was neat to have a romance told pretty much from the point of view of the guys in the story. And it worked!

Adam needs a wake-up call, and he takes a long time to get one. He doesn't want to grow up and realize he's been selfish. Kyle's problem is that he's been lusting after a bimbo instead of paying attention to a woman who is pretty and terrific and good for him. He's another boy who needs to man up.

Jonathan is the anchor, because he's the one who most wants to change. His is kind of an "ugly duckling" story, although he isn't really ugly--but he thinks of himself that way. He's just geeky, but very successful at it. His problem is that life-time crush on the former girl-next-door. He needs to get her or get over her, so he decides to get her. And he uses the romance novels as a textbook for what women want. It's really kind of sweet. He even gets to be a hero.

But because the story is told from Jonathan's point of view, we really don't get to see why he loves Lissa. We know that he does, but we don't know what makes Lissa so special. Jonathan is a terrific guy, and a lot of women would be happy to find someone like him. He goes to a tremendous amount of effort to make himself over for someone who has never noticed him. I wish we had a chance to get to know her better.

I loved the scenes where the poker buddies meet the romance writer who was their inspiration. Those scenes were fantastic!

Diana Leneker says

There were several times while reading this book that I thought I could see this made into a TV movie on the Hallmark Channel! A group of Friday night poker playing men are baffled at their inability to understand women. While at the local library fund drive, one of them sees romance novels as a way to enlighten themselves. From the pages of romance these men soon embark on ways to better understand women! Suffice it to say, there is a 15 year high school reunion to go to, a marriage to save, and all the men try to find ways to connect with the women in their lives. The hero in this book is the town's resident computer geek, and no one can really see him for the hunk he really is under the title of "Chess Club" president. Hilarity ensues as he sets out to win his high school crush, a woman who was his neighbor growing up. Gym membership, dancing lessons, with his sister no less, and new clothes buying.....all in an attempt to get his friend to notice him.

I love reading Sheila Roberts. She never disappoints and her new series in Icicle Falls is perfect for an afternoon of comfort reading!

Elizabeth Ayala says

I thought this was a good book. I didn't think Jonathan should have ended up with Lissa.

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

Men are clueless. Men are pathetic. Men are like puppies that need to be trained. But, once they are trained

and trained well? Women, watch out because those men become irresistible!

Seriously, think about how long it takes to get any cute animal to do tricks, even if it's only to sit or beg. Although, begging seems to come naturally to both species. Ms. Roberts takes the time to really show a reader exactly how far from perfect the three men in this story are. They listen but do not hear, they interpret what they don't understand and jump to conclusions because men know everything – at least, they think they're supposed to. What Jonathan, the computer geek, Adam, the guy with the hots for a co-worker, and Kyle, the husband whose wife kicked him out, learn during the telling of this story is beautiful. The journey itself encompasses humor, sadness, joys, disappointments, setbacks, hopes, dreams and even more humor. The most impressive element of the whole book is that while the men are learning about wooing women, they're learning about themselves and what it truly means to be a man.

I thought the beginning of the book was slow. The author took a very detailed journey to express to me the foibles of each man who would eventually become a heroine's hero in the story. At first I was annoyed that it was taking so long but my advice is to bear with the author. Watch for the clues and continue on. I later realized that without that background, what comes later wouldn't have had the power to affect my emotions as strong as it did. Those were the warm-up laps like they do in racing. Once that flag comes down the storytelling picks up at a fast clip because each man gets hit with his shortcomings. They're in shock! They're desperate! They'll do anything to win the hearts of the girls they love. And I do mean 'anything'. That's where the humor comes in, and a reader gets to see why they're eventually going to be wonderful heroes. If a man can humble himself to dance with another guy to understand how to dance, if he's willing to go out on a limb and read something he would never touch with a ten mile pole, and if he's willing to finally listen to the mushy sappy romantic that he's buried way down deep inside himself, all for the serious pursuit of a woman, then he's a keeper. There is hope and a happily ever after is a reachable goal.

Truly, What She Wants is a wonderful, heartwarming story told from the male point of view. When I said earlier that men were clueless, Ms. Roberts showed me just how much in hilarious detail. Their thought processes are different, their ways of dealing with unpleasant things are different and their approach to tackle problems are as opposite from women as night from day. That perspective is what initially interested me in the story but I never would have guessed as to the surprises the author had in store for me. They weren't all funny. Some were sad and were an effective emotional hook. But there was one element that made this book top notch and that was the identity of a certain person. I never guessed, never suspected the turn this tale took. It was a stroke of genius and I laughed out loud when it was revealed. That twist was awesome. I'm giggling in remembrance.

One scene comes to mind that embodies the journey these three men take. It happens at the poker table. Watch how things progress. Momentous ideas and plans come to fruition during those games. For these men, the poker table is the place where all the significant conversations take place. The poker game was like a snapshot – appearing when the author wanted to illustrate the dramatic growth of each man as he progressed. It was an effective technique and I liked it.

Secondary characters abounded and they were effective in showing off the men's weaknesses, their strengths and lending a hand when needed. They were personable, affable and made the book read like I was visiting family. Dot was a hoot. Then there were other characters that were not so nice. There were no spies or intrigue in this book. The external conflict comes from real people and the personal politics that can haunt a person long after they've graduated high school. For many people bullying can leave lasting emotional scars. The author touched on that too. Ms. Roberts was respectful and in a way helpful in letting people know that some bullies can change, wrongs can be righted or at least healed by reaching out and facing the past. That was another nice touch that made this book so special and emotional.

What She Wants reads like a snapshot of a small town community where the pursuit of love and happiness is just as powerful, poignant and special as one would expect in an exotic location. Anytime people are falling

in love is exotic, because no two experiences are the same and there are always elements of the unknown. Reading about falling in love 100% from a man's perspective was an amazing and interesting experience that I highly recommend. Get to know Adam, Kyle and Jonathan, and a reader will be rewarded with a wonderfully well-written and love-filled romance. Every happy ever after is unique and in this book a reader is blessed with three. I'm very glad I read this book.

Originally posted at: <http://www.longandshortreviews.com/bo...>

Anna says

A cute, fun romance from the perspective of some bumbling men who are clueless about how to romance a woman. They meet for poker every Friday night, occasionally commiserating about their love lives, or lack thereof. So one of them decides to look for the answers to win the heart of the woman of their dreams by reading romance novels. What ensues are some epic failures along with successful attempts that made me smile and route for them to find forever love.

An easy, light read.

3.5 stars

Katie Fink says

No interaction between the main character and his love interest until the last 50 pages of the book, and there wasn't any depth to the characters. Meh.

Anne Holly says

This is a hard review to write. As I close this book, I'm not really certain how I feel about it. I really, really wanted to love this book, and there were moments when I did, but it was a rocky relationship and I almost bailed on it a couple times.

While I adore the set up and the premise, and heaven knows I love me an unconventional hero, the book sags and lulls badly in the middle, and I almost didn't stick with it. (I ended up skimming/skipping the second half of Adam's and Kyle's stories, just to save myself some leg work.) It did pick up when it came to the actual reunion, but then it wrapped up so quickly I felt a bit cheated! This book had so much potential, it's a shame it didn't quite have enough steam to make it all the way.

I'm not even sure what this book is, to be honest. I don't think it's a romance, really. As a piece of general fiction, about a man on a rather neurotic individual quest, it still works, but it wasn't what I was expecting. Jonathan was pretty compelling, though readers who don't appreciate a good beta will not care for him; I did, and found him rather endearing in places. I wish we could have seen him confident and satisfied with himself, as is, a bit more; the opening of the book, where we see him shine in his geeky glory, were lovely in that sense. I was sorry there were so few moments like that, and we mostly saw him mopey and bitter after that. (view spoiler)

And, as the majority of the book focused on his quest to become a conventional hero, it took some of my delight out of it.

The reason it doesn't work as a romance, for me, was that this is really a book about a man and his "posse" of clueless dudes. There isn't really a heroine in this book - the object of Jonathan's affections doesn't count, because she never becomes a real person. She doesn't even appear in the book for the first 350 pages or so! What we get is snatches of his memory and a fake persona on video, and the stories he tells himself about her, but not a real person, ever. Just an image with which Jonathan beats himself. When she does appear, she's just a prop and a cypher. That kind of thing works better in lit fic than in romance, a genre that really only works if we know and love the two people falling in love.

(view spoiler)

Lissa's non-existence is part and parcel with the larger, more troubling dynamic to this book, which is, sadly, the taint of sexism. At first, I was worried it would be all about MRA woman-haters, though this was not entirely the case, though all the guys kind of end up falling into "Nice Guy" rants at some point. Happily, the book doesn't linger too long on tired tropes involving women wanting chocolate and flowers, etc, though "Women want a guy who can dance," etc, got way too much traction. "Women want a guy to take charge!" (Vomits forever.) Might it be possible that different women want different things? Shocking, I know! Here's a secret: You know how you can find out what a woman wants? You talk to her like she's a damned human, jackhole, because, you know, she kinda is a damned human! Luckily, Jonathan does kind of come to this conclusion near the end, finally acknowledging that Lissa had some agency in this thing, and it wasn't 100% just about him wooing and winning her, but that was a little too little, a little too late, and it spoiled a lot of the enjoyment I might have had in this book.

Further, a lot of the comedy in this book depends on us sharing a laugh about how silly women are - how embarrassing for a man to read romances! How awkward is it to dance like a girl! Hardy har har, right? For unconventional heroes, these guys sure have bought into some pretty narrow and sad conventions of gender, and I felt badly for them. It would have pleased me to no end to see some gender play mixed in with the unconventional hero, though this was not really to be. Certainly, there is a role reversal in the Cinderella story, but beyond that we get a lot of the same-old-same-old.

I'm very sorry I didn't love this. I really wanted to!

If the book had had the couple in actual contact, and if Jonathan's transformation had been in conversation with a real woman (rather than just a mirage twisted by sexism and desperation), and if the story had been about Jonathan liberating himself instead of merely learning to perform conventional masculinity, this would have been much more enjoyable. Even a touch of Jonathan's quest really being about him maturing past his middle school desires would have helped! Even better, if he had pursued his vision, but been blindsided by a real lady who was actually capable of seeing him for what he was, and who demonstrated depth and value, this would have been a great book.

As it is, it's a great concept that never lived up to my hopes for it, and that makes me a bit sad. I wanted to love it; instead, I merely liked it (and, even then, only in spots). What a disappointment!

Still, kudos to the author for trying something quite different (especially in writing it entirely from the male POV, which was intriguing - not particularly different from the majority of literature, but different for romance) and offering up a really memorable unconventional hero. This concept would work very nicely for a film, and the book felt cinematic to me. In fact, it might have worked better in a 90 minute format than this nearly-400 page treatise on how to obsess over someone who doesn't really exist.

Laura says

Got about 1/2 way through this one and wasn't into it enough to continue. It's a shame because I thought it was a cute concept...three men with women troubles start reading romance novels to try and figure out what women want. Unfortunately the men IMHO were unlikable. I just like my men much more alpha than these guys, and the women really weren't introduced until close to halfway through the book so I didn't feel much was happening at the beginning of the book.

A good, sweet read for some I'm sure but just not my cup of tea.

Hsiau Wei says

This book tell the story of 5 poker buddies; Jonathan, Kyle, Vance, Bernando and Adam and their conflicts and problems in their love relationship. Jonathan has been in love with his neighbour cum school mate throughout his life, a popular tv host, Lissa. He have not found his courage to confess his love for her but their high school reunion is coming up soon. He wanted very much for Lissa to look at him differently and to accept him. One day, he came to realisation that the only way to understand a girl is thru romance books and according to his sister and everyone, Vannessa's book are the best book for guidance. He started reading on one and soon he found himself hooked on it. It is there he jot down notes on the ways a girl think and expect from love. Soon, his other buddies; Kyle who have a crush on his colleague eventhough she have been given him cold shoulder; Adam, got thrown out by his wife for taking her for granted and is staying with Jonathan, Bernando who complaint mostly on the way his wife putting him on diet started on reading Vanessa's books except Vance. It was thru these books, they understand and acknowledge their mistakes and started to rectify their way in treating the women that they love.

This is the first romance story that tell the story from guys' perspective and I really like the way the author has written it. Fun and quirky is the word that I summed up about this book. It actually make you laugh and cry together with the characters. I didn't expect to say this but it is nice if guys would pick this book and read. ;)
